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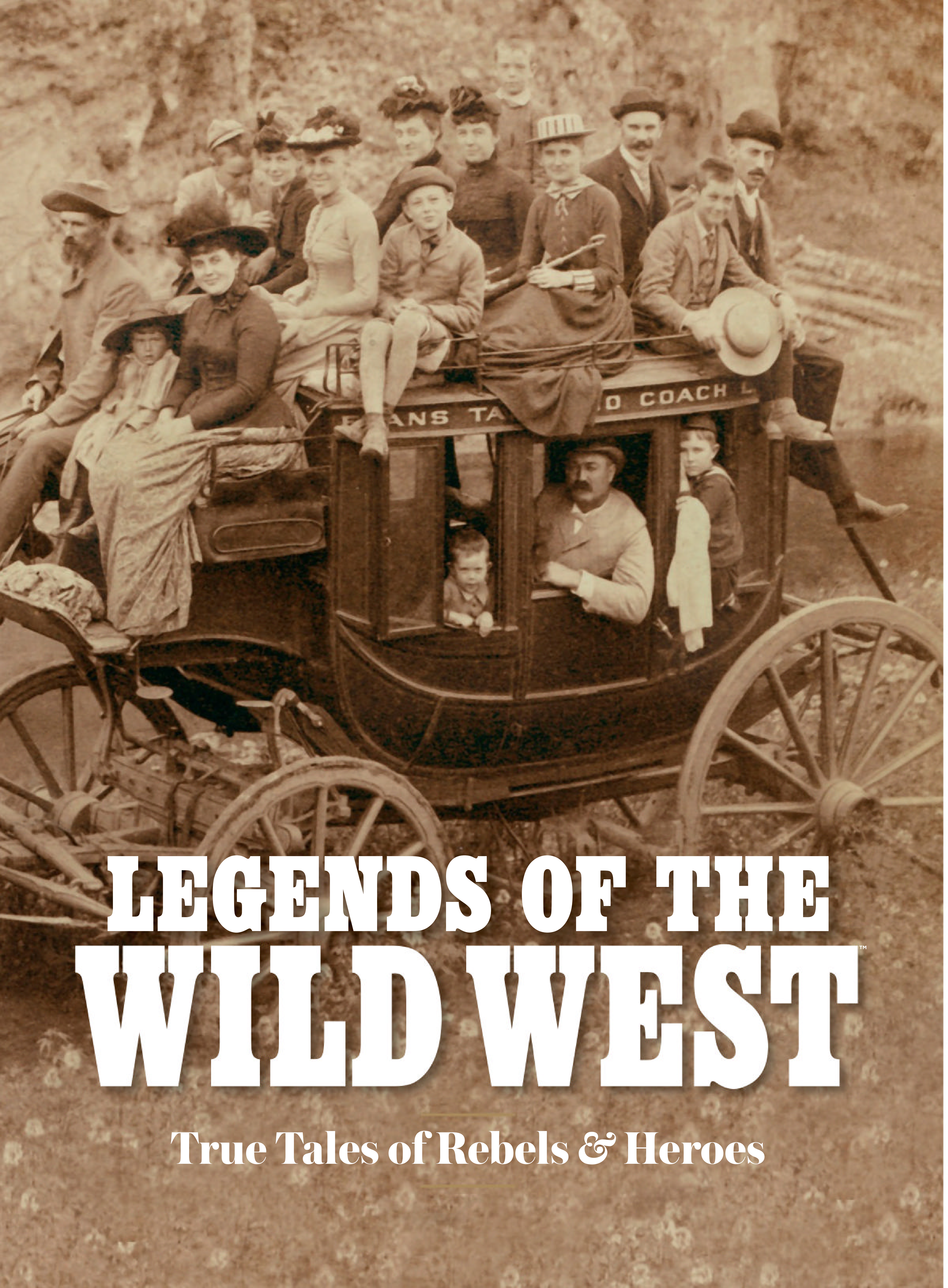
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LEGENDS OF THE WILD WEST™

True Tales of Rebels & Heroes

CONTENTS

6 FACT AND FICTION ON THE FRONTIER
When it comes to tales about the Wild West, truth and myth are two sides of the same coin. They always have been.

PART 1 HOW THE WEST GOT WILD

10 THE LAWLESS LAND
The Wild West era began in the years following the Civil War. But the real roots of the frontier go back much further.

18 STORIED DAYS
A decade-by-decade look at how the history of the West unfolded, from the launch of the Pony Express to the closing of the frontier.

28 A LANDSCAPE OF INNOVATION
Five inventions that changed the West, from the stagecoach and barbed wire to John B. Stetson's cowboy hat.

PART 2 TRUE STORIES AND TALL TALES

36 WILD BILL'S DEADLY DUEL
A gunfight in 1865 brought "Wild Bill" Hickok fame—and a reputation that would follow him across the land.

42 THE LEGENDS THAT WON THE WEST
Hugely popular dime novels romanticized the heroes of the frontier and created an enduring tradition of storytelling.

46 WILD BUNCH: 10 ICONS OF AN EPIC AGE
Some were celebrated as heroes, while others earned notoriety as villains. All made history.

64 'A WARRIOR I HAVE BEEN'
Lakota chief Sitting Bull defended his people's way of life until he could defend it no longer.

70 EYEWITNESS TO AN ERA

As a pioneering photojournalist, Camillus "Buck" Sydney Fly of Tombstone, Arizona, documented the history of a violent age.

74 GAMES OF CHANCE

From faro to poker, gambling was a part of life (and sometimes death) for the risk-takers of the West.

PART 3 LASTING LEGACY

82 BEST WESTERNS

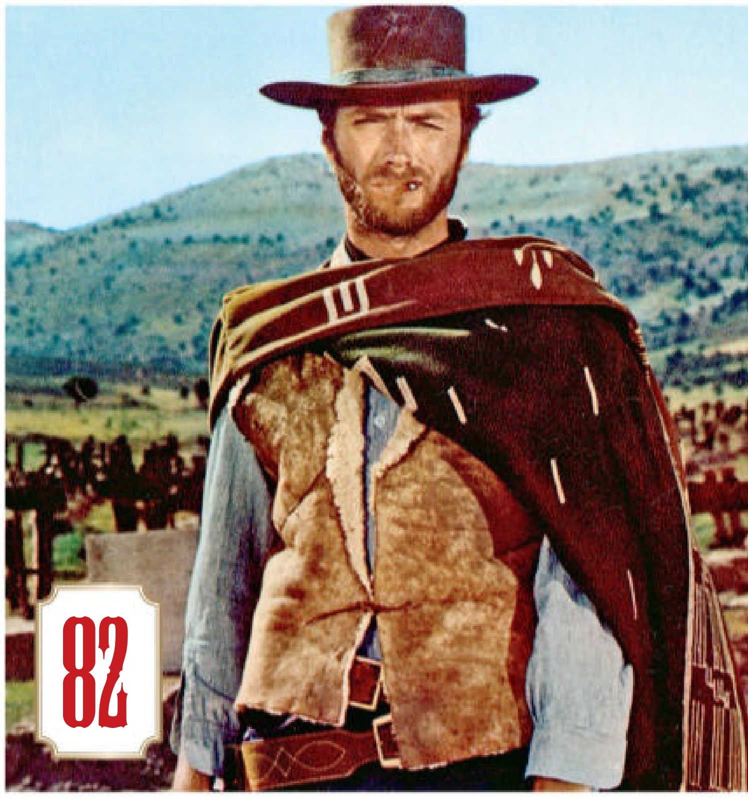
Movies helped to reinvent the era as the lore and legends grew.

88 THE REMAINS OF THE OLD DAYS

You can revisit the fascinating Wild West era in these well-preserved ghost towns—some of which feature actual ghosts.

96 10 WILD WEST FACTS

Derby hats ruled, camels roamed wild, whiskey was worse than you think, and more surprising info about America's frontier past.



FACT AND FICTION ON THE FRONTIER

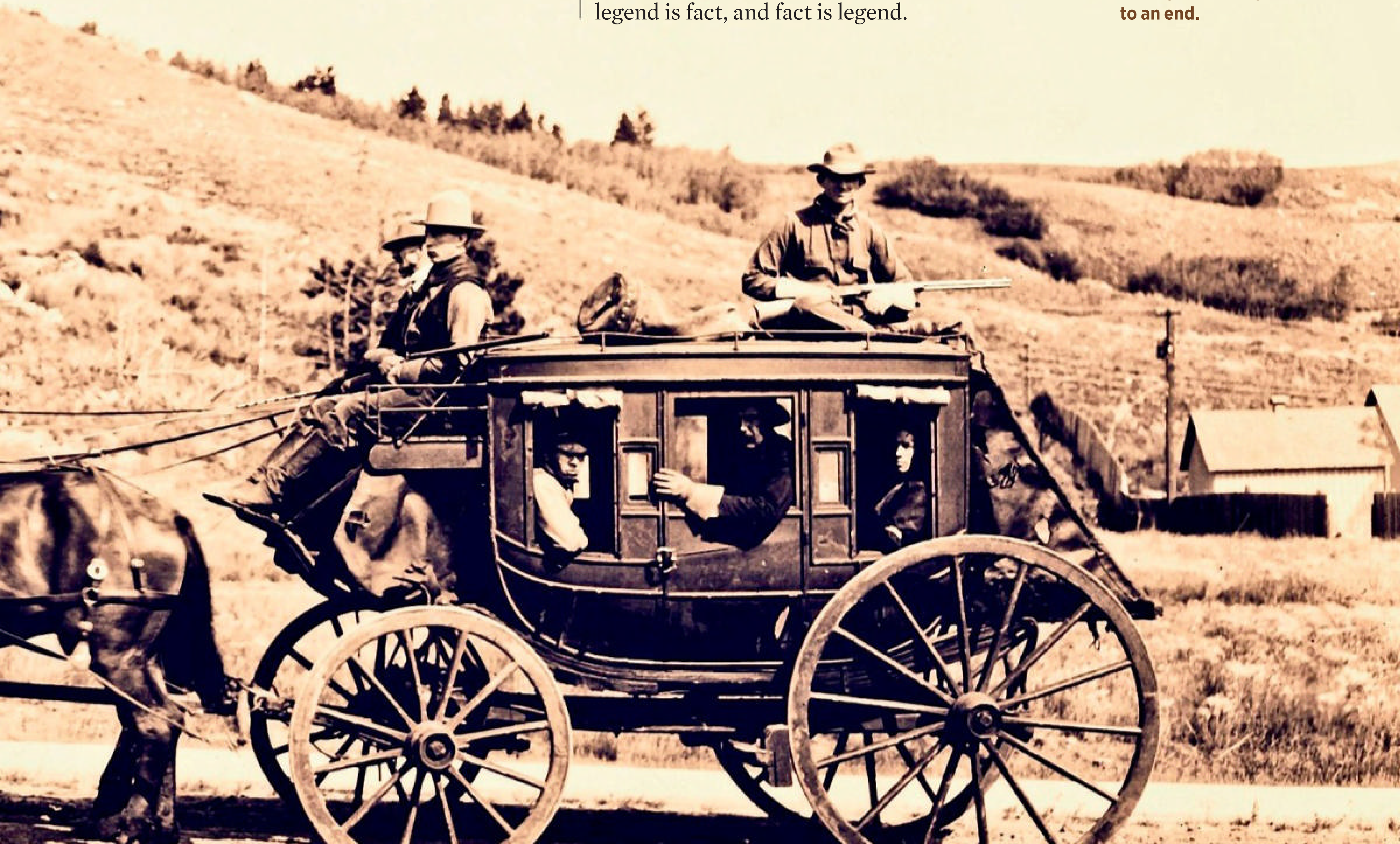
THE ERA OF STAGECOACHES, SALOONS AND SHOOT-OUTS WAS BRIEF, BUT IT ENDURED AS MYTH.

IN 1962, ABOUT A HUNDRED YEARS after the Wild West era began, the latest movie Western from film director John Ford opened in theaters across America. It was called *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, and it starred a couple of Hollywood heavyweights—John Wayne and James Stewart—in a haunting story about a killing on a dark street and the power of frontier mythology. In the film, Stewart plays a young lawyer drawn to the raucous West by the promise of opportunity, and he eventually vaults to fame after facing down a notorious gunman. But his success is built on a lie—we learn that it was *another* man who shot the outlaw. In his later years, Stewart, having become a U.S. senator, confesses the truth to a newspaper editor. After listening to the tale, the editor rips up his notes. “This is the West, sir,” he says. “When the legend becomes fact, print the legend.”

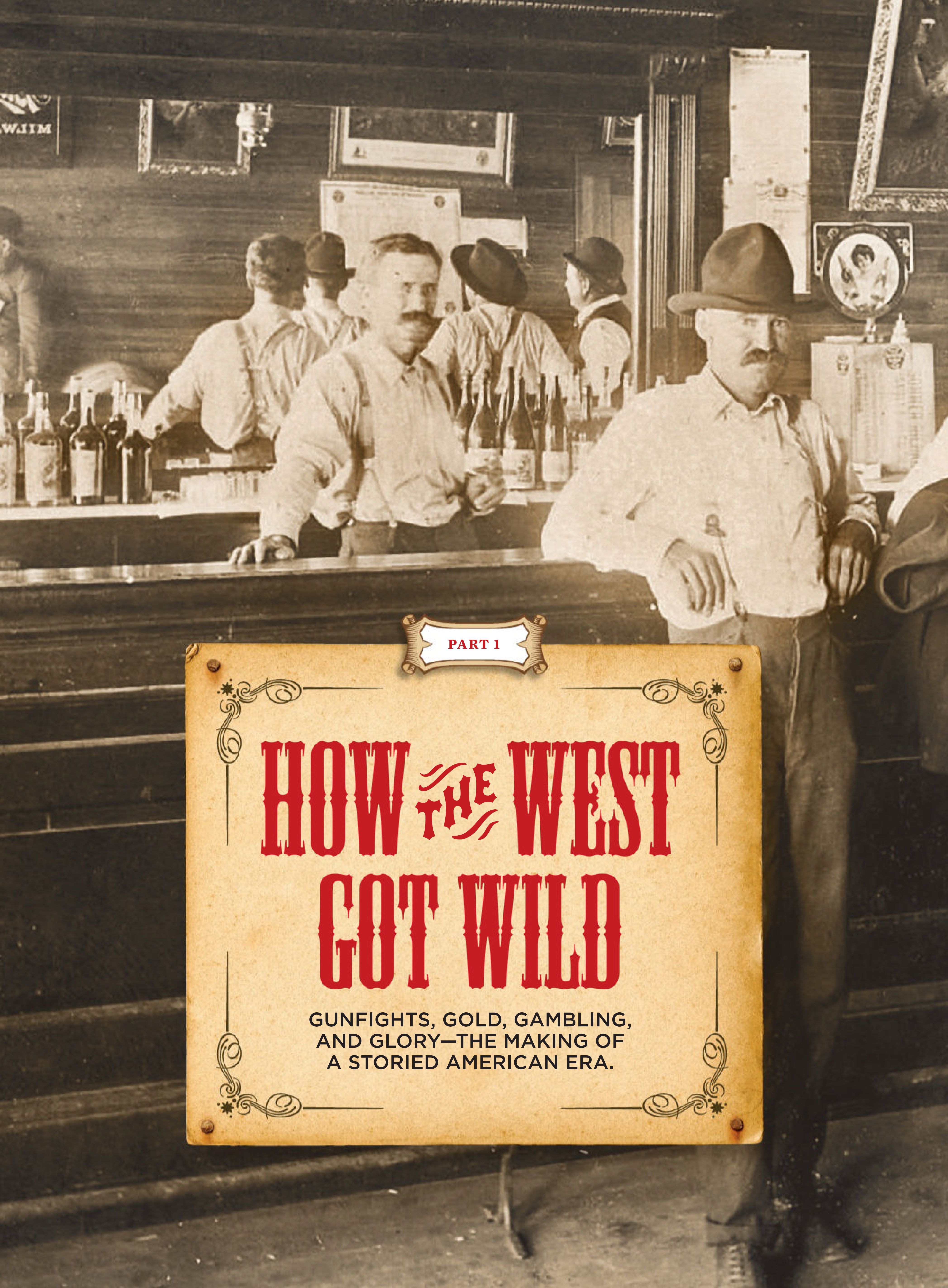
Over the years the line has become famous, though it’s often misquoted. Its meaning—given weight by the storytelling of Ford, a western fabulist of the highest order—couldn’t be clearer though: When it comes to the Wild West, fact and fiction are two sides of the same coin. They always have been.

The West was both a place and a time—the American frontier from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean during the final decades of the 19th century. It all began after the chaos of the Civil War, as white Americans pushed westward in ever greater numbers, onto the prairies and mountains and high deserts that had been home to Indigenous peoples for millennia. The newcomers arrived in search of riches: some as cattlemen, some as prospectors, some as farmers. Some became outlaws and others became lawmen. And then by 1900 it was mostly over: The frontier had vanished, as railroads brought more and more settlers to build towns and cities.

At the same time, though, another frontier was being created. This one existed between the covers of popular novels and magazines that spun romanticized yarns about buffalo hunters, desperados and Indian wars. The stories fired the imaginations of city dwellers in the East and lured many to chase those dreams. They also began a tradition of mythologizing that would ultimately be carried on by moviemakers like Ford. If the lore of the Wild West still fascinates us, so do the real stories of this colorful time. They are twin tales and cannot rightfully be considered separately. In the West, legend is fact, and fact is legend.



“Our coach was a swinging and swaying cage,” wrote author Mark Twain, describing an 1861 journey westward. Railroads brought the days of stagecoach trips to an end.



PART 1

HOW THE WEST GOT WILD

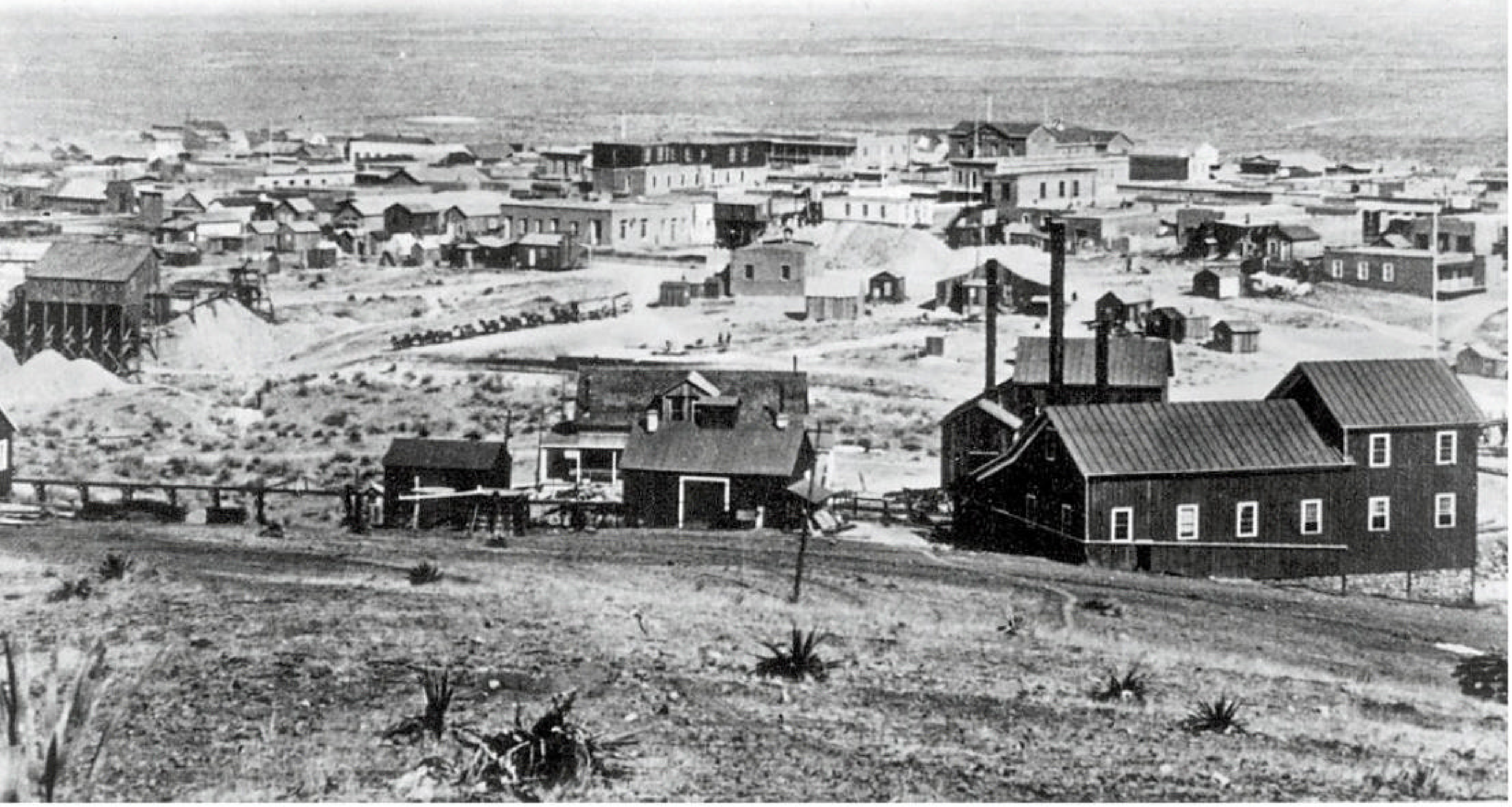
GUNFIGHTS, GOLD, GAMBLING, AND GLORY—THE MAKING OF A STORIED AMERICAN ERA.

Set 'em up with a round of "tarantula juice" (aka whiskey): A scene from an unknown Western saloon sometime in the 1890s.

THE LAWLESS

LAND

AMERICAN DREAMS AND AMERICAN DESTINY MET ON THE WIDE-OPEN PLAINS. IT WAS AN EXPLOSIVE TIME…WHILE IT LASTED.



TOP Tombstone, Arizona, as it looked in 1861, the year the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral took place.

ABOVE Tombstone founder Ed Schieffelin, here in 1880, was buried with his pick and shovel when he died in 1897.

TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA, WAS ONE OF the last of the great boomtowns on the American frontier, but in many ways it was typical of them all. It was founded in 1877 by Ed Schieffelin, a prospector with long black hair, an unkempt beard—and a nose for silver. In southeast Arizona, he used the U.S. Army's newly established Camp Huachuca as a base during his search for ore, and, as legend has it, a soldier once asked him why he risked his life by traipsing around in territory filled with unfriendly Apache Indians. "To collect rocks," Schieffelin replied. To which the soldier responded, "You keep fooling around out there amongst them Apaches and the only rock you'll find will be your tombstone." Or something like that.

At any rate, when Schieffelin finally found silver, he called his claim "Tombstone," and as other settlers arrived in search of riches, that's what they called the town that rose up in the area. By late 1881, Tombstone was home to more than 7,000 people. There were theaters, churches, banks, hotels, saloons, brothels and several newspapers, including the *Tombstone Daily Nugget*, which on Oct. 27 of that year reported on a gunfight that had taken place the previous day—"the bloodiest and deadliest street fight," noted the *Nugget*, "that has ever occurred in this place."

Born of a simmering feud, the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, as the shoot-out came to be called, lasted all of 30 seconds, but it would cement Tombstone's place in Wild West lore. In fact, it took place not in a corral but in a vacant lot next to a photography studio. When it ended, three outlaws from a gang known as the Cowboys lay dead, killed by Tombstone Marshal Virgil Earp, his brothers Morgan and Wyatt, and gunman and gambler John Henry "Doc" Holliday, all serving as town policemen.

In a sense, the gunfight marked a turning point in the history of the Wild West—a fact that may explain, at least in part, why the violence that day would evolve into such a potent piece of American mythology. Although it came to epitomize the lawless era of the American frontier, by 1881 that period had already started to come to a close. The previous July, Pat Garrett, the sheriff of Lincoln County, New Mexico, had gunned down famed outlaw Billy the Kid. And a little more than five months later, the notorious Jesse James would be shot dead by a member of his own gang for a $10,000 reward. By 1890, the U.S. Census Bureau declared that because of rapid western settlement, the

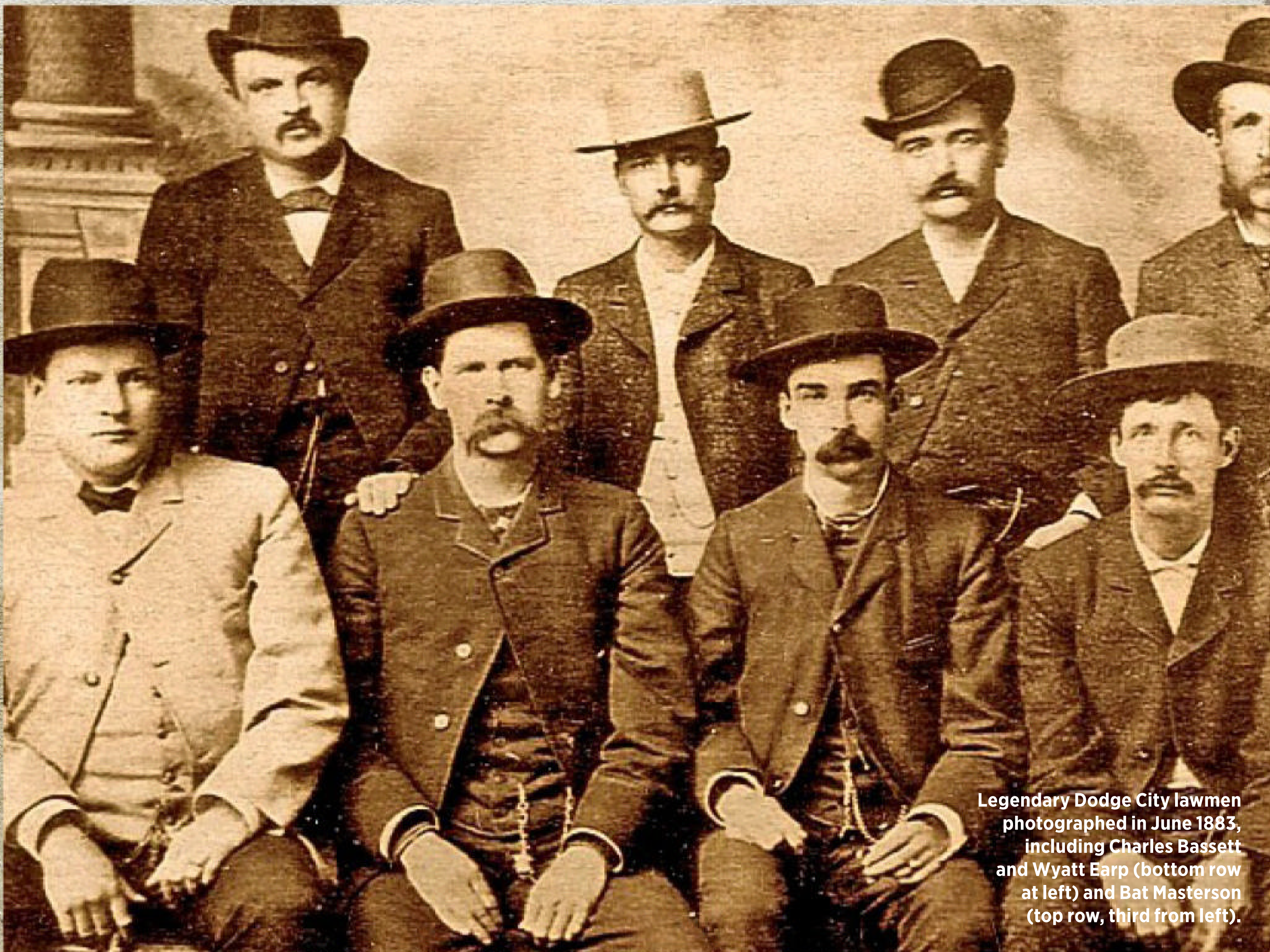
HOW DANGEROUS WAS THE REGION?

Dodge City wasn't as deadly a place as you might think.

In the movies, murder and mayhem defined the Wild West. But how violent was it, really?

Historians remain divided. Comparative homicide rates support the traditional depiction of the West as very dangerous, but some statisticians note that the sparse population of the frontier makes such calculations misleading. Notoriously disorderly Dodge City, Kansas, is a case in point. Founded in 1872 along the newly laid tracks of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, the town was first a center for the buffalo trade and then the cattle trade. In its first year as an unorganized village, when Dodge lacked law enforcement and judicial structures, 18 men died there from gunshot wounds, according to one source.

Newspaper reports in the East turned Dodge into the very symbol of the violent frontier. "The fact is that in charming Dodge City there is no law," noted Horace Greeley's *New-York Tribune*. After the town became politically organized and hired a city marshal and assistant lawmen, the number of homicides dropped dramatically. From 1873 to 1875, by one count, there were no violent deaths in Dodge, and from 1876 through 1886, the recorded body count averaged fewer than two violent deaths a year.



Legendary Dodge City lawmen photographed in June 1883, including Charles Bassett and Wyatt Earp (bottom row at left) and Bat Masterson (top row, third from left).

American frontier itself had disappeared. And by the mid-1890s, the silver boom in Tombstone was over, as mines in the area played out. What was left was legend.

Unfettered Freedom

Western historian Richard White once noted that American history might have unfolded very differently had a number of nations—Britain, France and Mexico among them—vigorously exercised their claims on the North American continent during the 19th century. "Different calculations, slightly different turns of events, a little intransigence or weakness on one side or another could easily have yielded a very different division of spoils, and thus a very different West," he wrote in a 1996 essay.

In the end, it was white settlers from the eastern edge of the continent who took possession of the West, although other peoples had been living there for 15,000 years or so. In the 1830s, mountain men like Kit Carson blazed trails through the region, and by the 1840s settlers were making the journey westward in covered wagons, looking to create new lives in a vast landscape that represented opportunity and unfettered personal freedom.

In 1845, an influential American journalist named John L. O'Sullivan wrote an article urging the United States to annex Texas, explaining that it was "our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions." That notion of divine entitlement was not shared by all Americans, especially those opposed to the westward spread of slavery. The annexation of Texas led to war with Mexico, and America's victory in the conflict added more than a million square miles of new territory to the country. Then on Jan. 24, 1848, a sawmill operator named James W. Marshall reported that he'd found gold in California. The news drew hundreds of thousands of Americans,

LEFT A scene from the Oklahoma Land Rush. Settlers in 1889 headed out for some 2 million acres of available land.

RIGHT The population explosion and introduction of the refrigerated rail car in the 1860s gave rise to the West's cattle industry.

mostly men, to an area largely beyond the reach of law, where the only outlets for recreation were saloons, brothels and gambling houses.

In 1854 President Franklin Pierce signed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, creating the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. The legislation called for the status of slavery in the new territories to be decided by the people living there, rather than by Congress. What followed were years of violence in Kansas and Missouri between pro-slavery "border ruffians" and anti-slavery "jayhawkers"—a guerrilla war that set the stage for the Civil War and the turbulent years that would follow on the frontier.

Old Herds and New Herds

In the midst of the war, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act of 1862, making millions of acres in the West available to American citizens, while the late 1860s saw an outburst of investment in the region. By 1869, the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads were united at Promontory Summit, Utah, creating the First Transcontinental Railroad. As tracks were being laid across the prairies, railroad companies hired hunters like William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody to kill bison, ostensibly to provide meat for their crews. Eradicating the herds had the side benefit for settlers of removing a chief source of food and clothing for Native American peoples who stood in the way of new settlement. Other herds would later appear, however—cattle raised by white ranchers to feed America's growing hunger for beef.

Frontier Theory

The newcomers who began to inhabit the West were overwhelmingly male, many hardened by the brutality of the Civil War and armed with increasingly affordable guns turned out by industrial-age factories in the East. They drifted to boomtowns where whiskey-fueled violence erupted. For law enforcement, towns hired gunman who, in many cases, were not

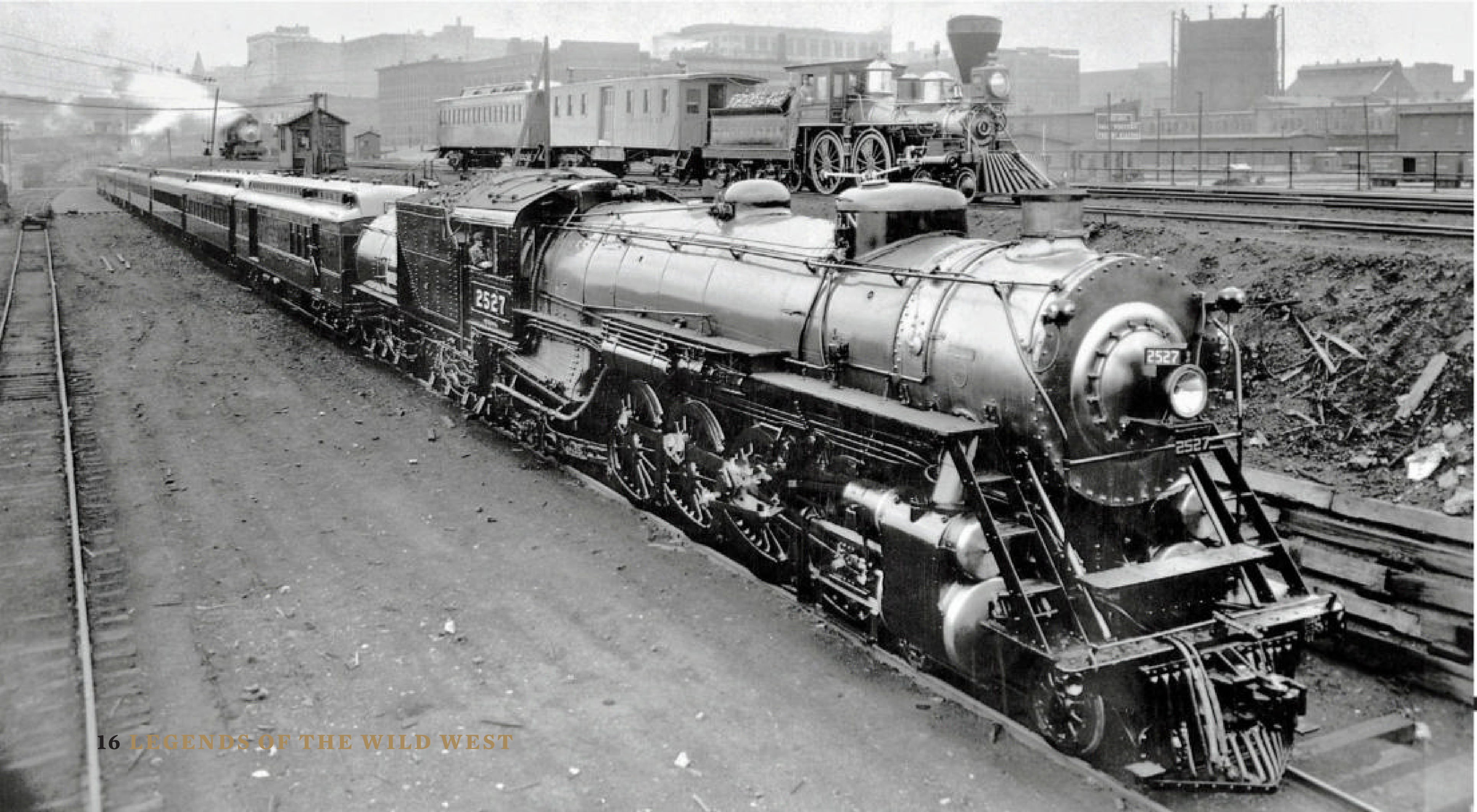
ABOVE In 1885, following the death of his mother and first wife, Theodore Roosevelt briefly retreated to his ranch in Dakota Territory (above right) before resuming his political career.

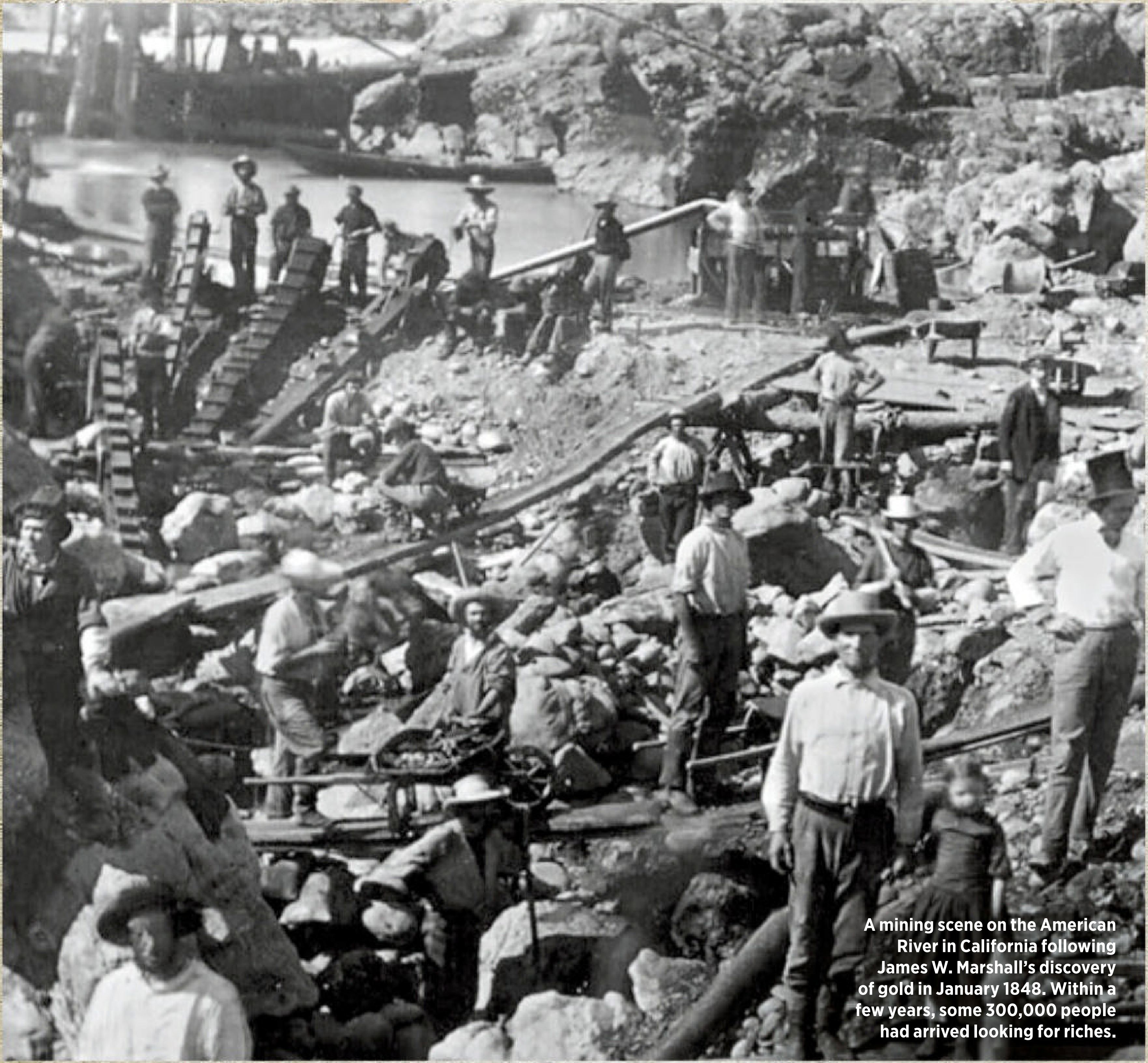
BELOW A "modern" all-steel 1924 train alongside the original Great Northern Railway train of 1862.

far different from the rowdies and outlaws they were supposed to rein in. Their exploits were romanticized by imaginative writers who churned out dime novels that enthralled readers in the East with tales of banditry, Indian wars and indomitable heroes. Buffalo Bill, the star of many of the novels, went on to reframe the narrative of the frontier in his hugely popular Wild West shows.

In the 19th century, many saw the West as a tonic for the overly civilized American male. Theodore Roosevelt, a Harvard-educated Easterner who went to the West intent on becoming a cattle baron, saw in the conquest of the frontier "a most healthy sign of the virile strength" of the American people. Historian Frederick Jackson Turner went further. In his 1893 essay "The Significance of the Frontier in American History," he contended that westward expansion was central in forming the individualistic American character. Jackson's "Frontier Thesis" has influenced scholars ever since.

Like the West itself, however, the history of the region isn't what it used to be. Where Roosevelt and Turner saw triumph, historians like Richard White have seen misadventure and worse. Nonetheless, the symbolism of the West, a creation of both history and mythology, continues to hold a powerful grip on our imaginations.





A mining scene on the American River in California following James W. Marshall's discovery of gold in January 1848. Within a few years, some 300,000 people had arrived looking for riches.

GOING FOR THE GOLD

A momentous discovery in California set off the largest migration in U.S. history.

I picked up one or two pieces and examined them attentively; and having some general knowledge of minerals, I could not call to mind more than two which in any way resembled this." That is how carpenter and sawmill operator James W. Marshall recalled the momentous discovery he made in January 1848—gold, on the south fork of the American River, east of present-day Sacramento, California. His find would set off the largest mass migration in U.S. history.

In March 1848, there were an estimated 150,000 people in the California territory—most of them Native Americans. Just 20 months later, the non-native population soared to more than 100,000. That was just the beginning of the gold rush that reshaped America. By the mid 1850s, some 300,000 people had arrived seeking riches. The gold rush changed the landscape of California, which became the 31st state in 1850, and boosted the economy of the U.S., fueling dreams like the construction of a cross-country railroad.

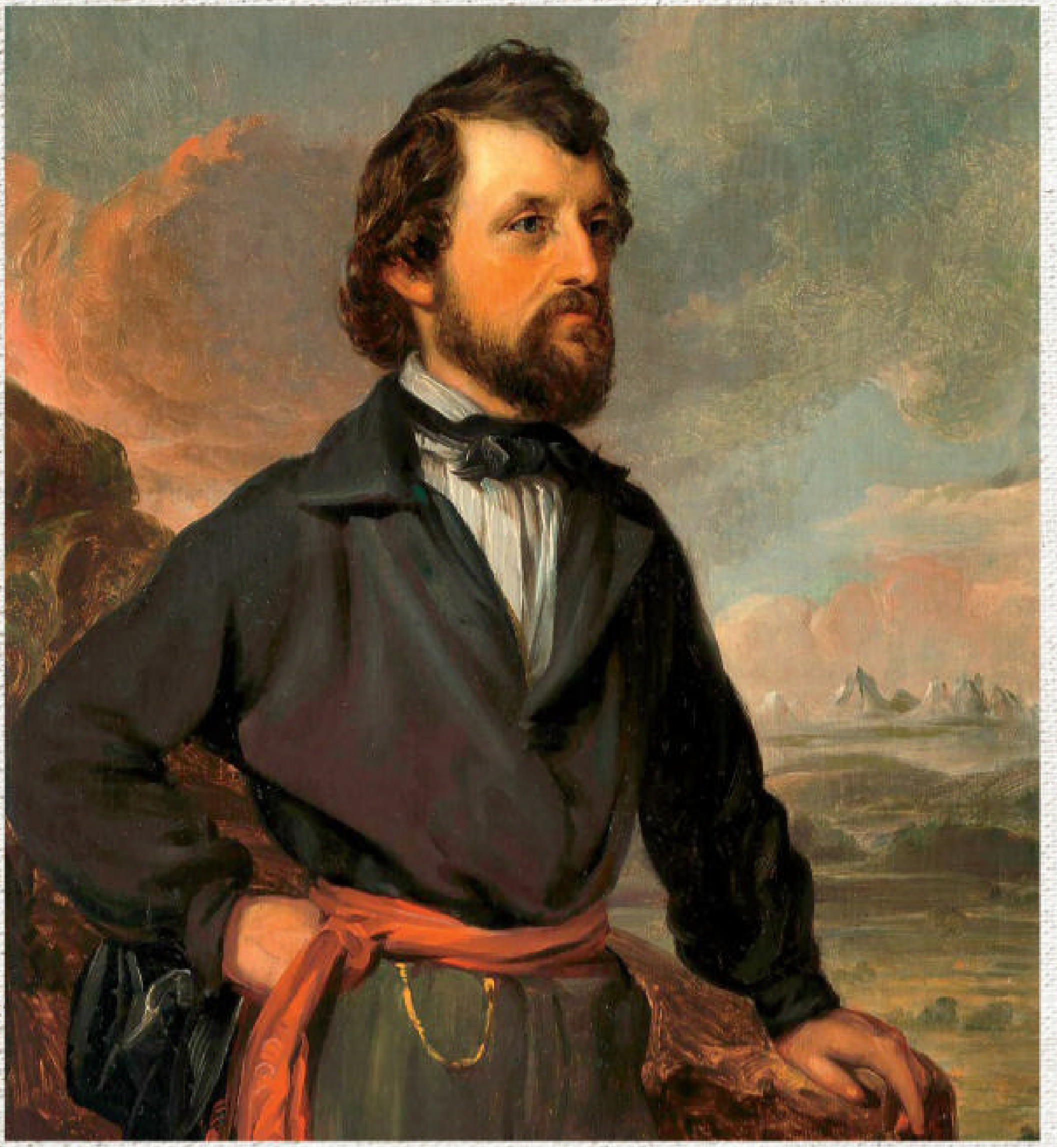
STORIED DAYS

A DECADE-BY-DECADE TIME LINE OF THE WILD WEST.

RIGHT Francisco Vázquez de Coronado's expedition left him bankrupt.

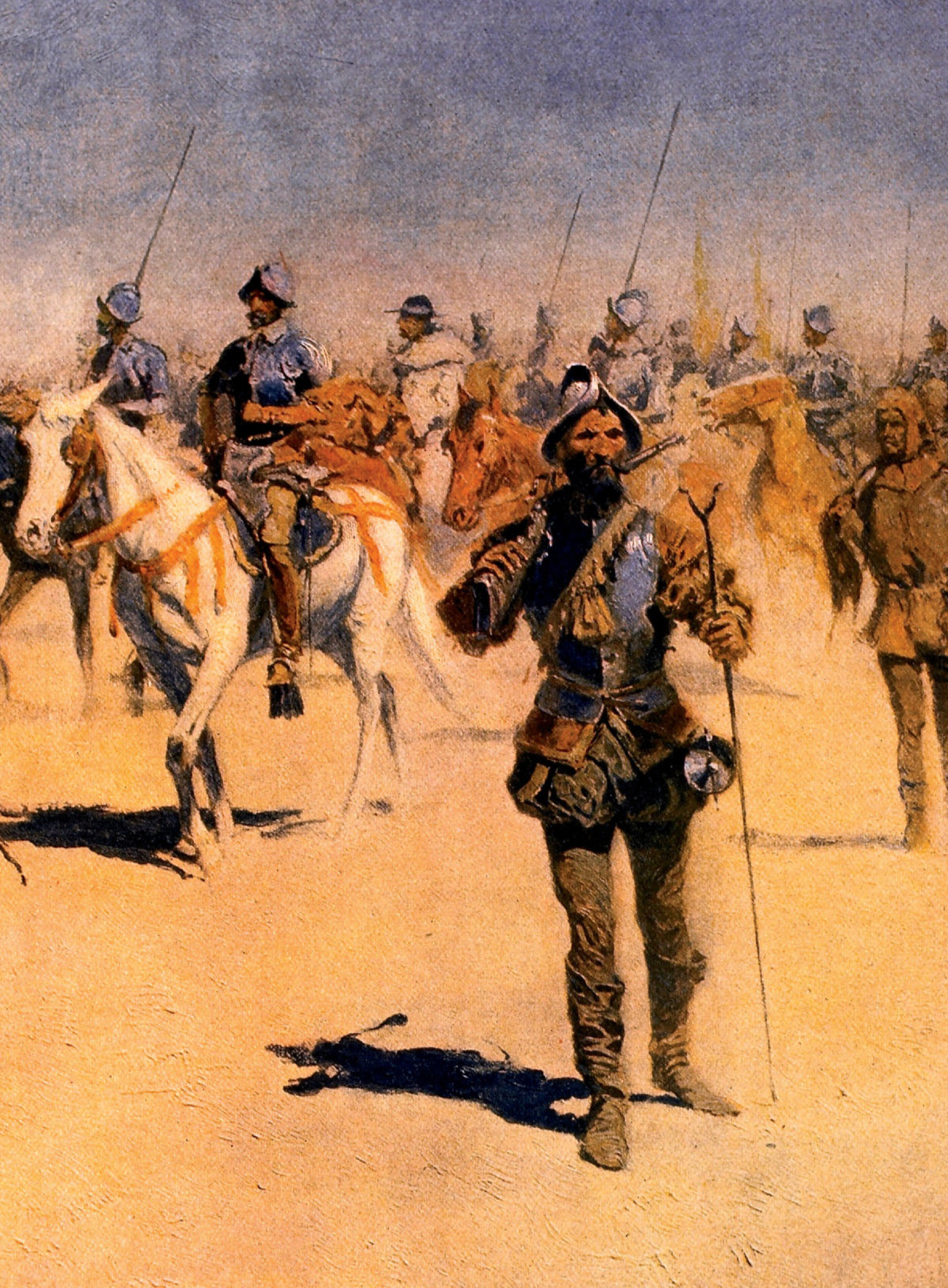
BELOW John L. O'Sullivan believed "manifest destiny" was a moral ideal.

In the year 1540, Spanish conquistador Francisco Vázquez de Coronado started off on a two-year expedition from New Spain—present-day Mexico—into what is now the American Southwest. It was an ambitious quest. Coronado, born into Spanish nobility and governor of a province of New Spain, led a group of some 400 European soldiers and more than a thousand Indigenous Mexicans into the unknown landscape, spurred by reports of golden cities to the north. He failed to find treasure, but he discovered much more. Traveling as far north as Kansas, members of his party, according to historians, were the first Europeans to sight the Grand Canyon and document the geography and Indigenous peoples of much of the West.



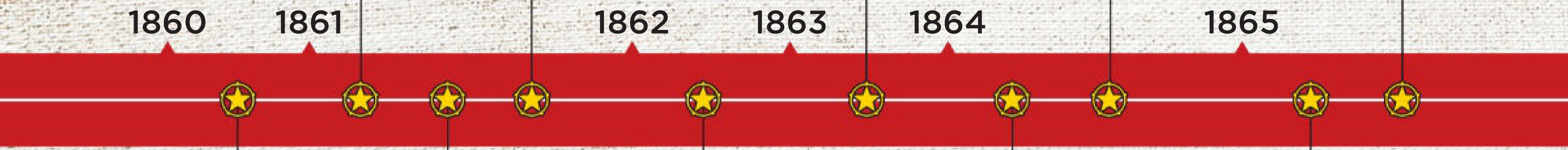
Three hundred years later, others were making their way into the Western landscape—Americans in search of their own golden riches, as well as land to settle on and new horizons to explore. In the 1840s, the first covered wagons to travel the Oregon Trail arrived in Sacramento, California. In 1845, the same year journalist John L. O'Sullivan proclaimed that it was the "manifest destiny" of Americans to spread across the continent to the Pacific Ocean, Texas was annexed by the United States and admitted to the Union as the 28th state, prompting a war between the U.S. and Mexico. With its victory, the U.S. expanded its land area by about one-third.

After the cataclysm of the Civil War, the settlement of the West took on a new dimension. The period we know as the Wild West—the myth-making era of cattle drives, gunfights, saloons, outlaws and Indian wars—lasted a relatively brief period, as the American frontier filled. But it left an indelible mark on history. See how it unfolded on the following pages.

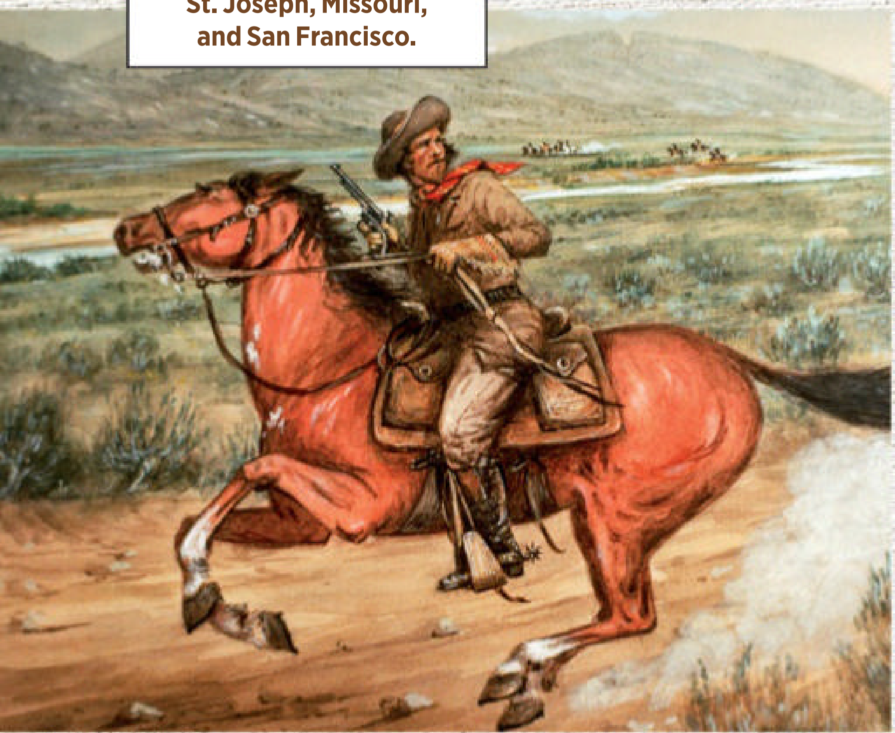


THE 1860S

CONQUEST AND CONFLICT



1860 APRIL 14
The Pony Express completes its first deliveries between St. Joseph, Missouri, and San Francisco.

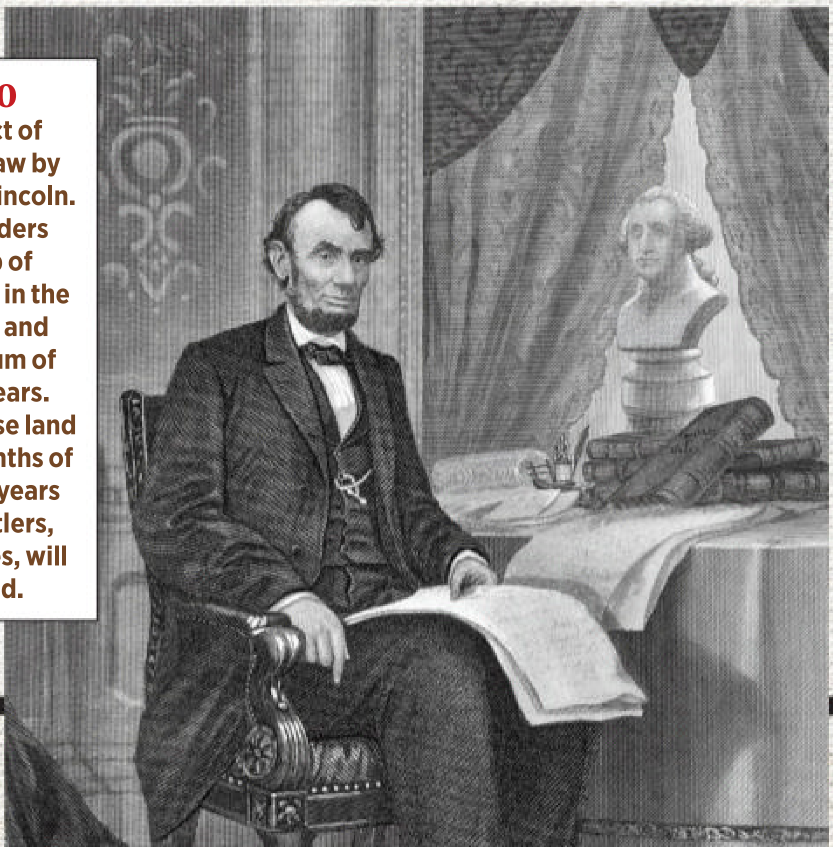


1861 JAN. 29
Kansas is admitted to the Union as a free state. Over the next two months the Colorado, Nevada and Dakota territories are organized.

1861 APRIL 12
The Civil War begins when South Carolina militia opens fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor.

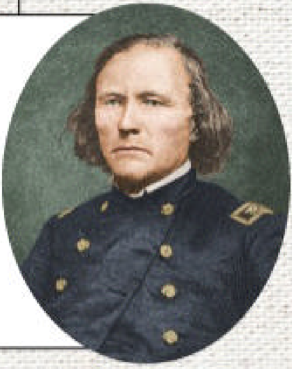
1861 OCT. 24
The first transcontinental telegraph line is completed, making the Pony Express obsolete.

1862 MAY 20
The Homestead Act of 1862 is signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln. It allows homesteaders to take ownership of unappropriated land in the West by occupying and improving a minimum of 160 acres for five years. They can also purchase land outright after six months of residency. Over the years some 16 million settlers, including freed slaves, will claim frontier land.



1863 FEB. 24
The Arizona Territory is organized from a portion of New Mexico Territory. The following month, Idaho is organized as a U.S. territory.

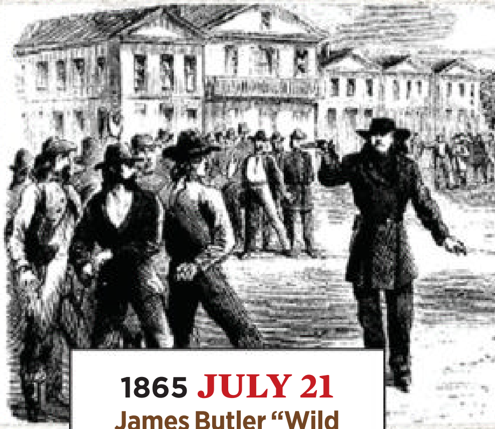
1864 AUGUST
Years of conflict between Navajo people and settlers end as frontiersman and U.S. Army Col. Kit Carson begins forcibly marching thousands of men, women and children to a reservation in New Mexico.

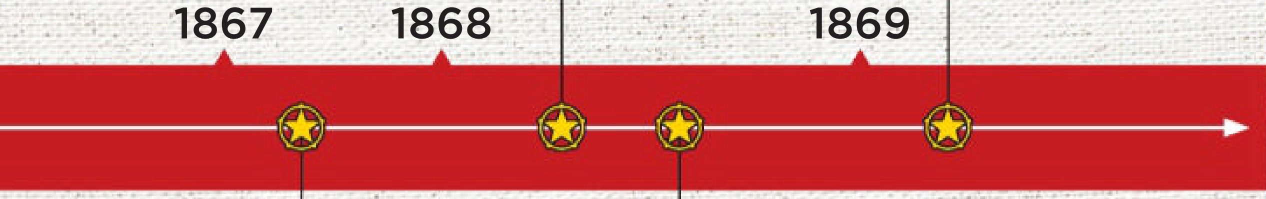


1864 OCT. 31
Nevada is admitted as the 36th U.S. state.

1865 MAY 12–13
A month after Abraham Lincoln's assassination, the Battle of Palmito Ranch, the final armed engagement of the Civil War, is fought near Brownsville, Texas.

1865 JULY 21
James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok kills gambler Davis Tutt in a shoot-out in Springfield, Missouri. The episode is soon sensationalized in *Harper's Magazine*.





1867 MARCH 1
Nebraska is admitted as the 37th U.S. state.

1868 APRIL 29
The Treaty of Fort Laramie is signed between the United States and several bands of Lakota, Dakota and Arapaho Indians. It establishes the Great Sioux Reservation through South Dakota and Nebraska and designates the Black Hills as "unceded Indian Territory" for the exclusive use of native peoples.

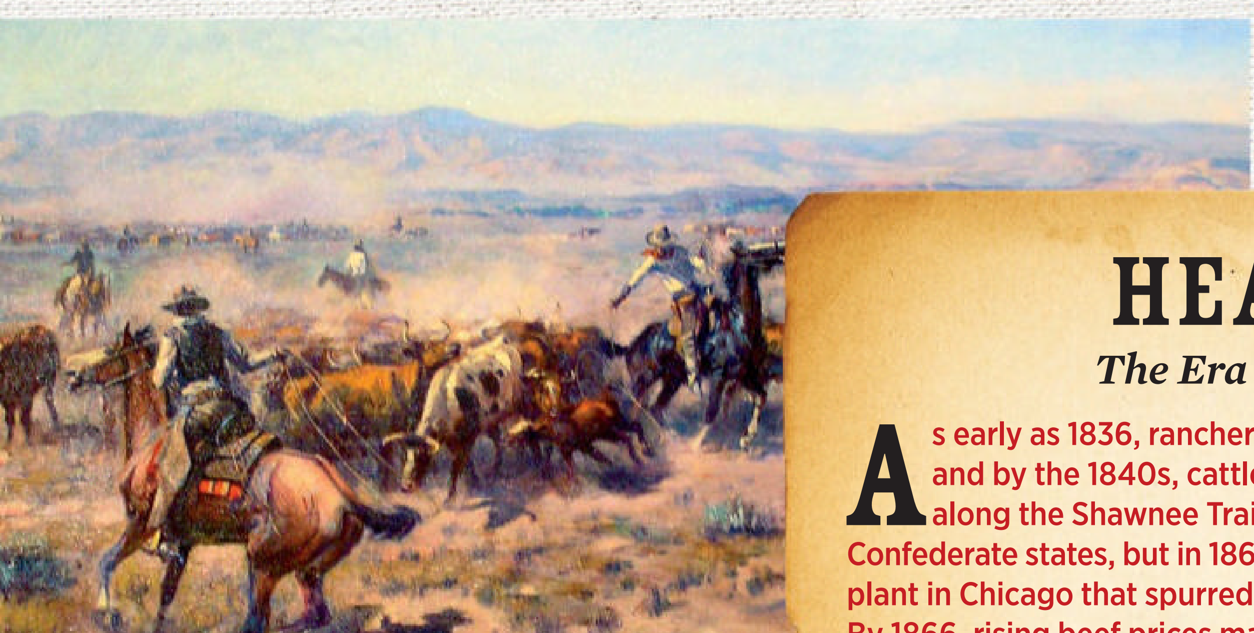
1868 JULY 25
Wyoming is organized as a U.S. territory.

1869 MAY 10
At a special ceremony, the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads are joined at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory, completing the First Transcontinental Railroad.

THE BASCOM AFFAIR

Cochise and the Apache Wars

In early 1861, a mistaken assumption triggered decades of conflict between the U.S. Army and Native Americans in the Southwest. In January 1861, Indian parties raided the ranch of John Ward in what would later become Arizona Territory, taking livestock and kidnapping Ward's 12-year-old stepson, Felix Ward. When U.S. Army Lt. George Nicholas Bascom and a group of infantry were sent to recover the boy, they focused their pursuit on Chiricahua Apaches and their chief, Cochise—although, as it turned out, it was another band who had raided the ranch. On Feb. 19, after several tense days and a series of bloody confrontations between the cavalry and Apaches, Cochise's brother and nephews were hanged by soldiers. The hostilities triggered the Apache Wars, a series of clashes in the southwest that would go on for 25 years. The Bascom Massacre, or Bascom Affair, would later be portrayed in the 1950 James Stewart film *Broken Arrow*.



HEAD 'EM UP

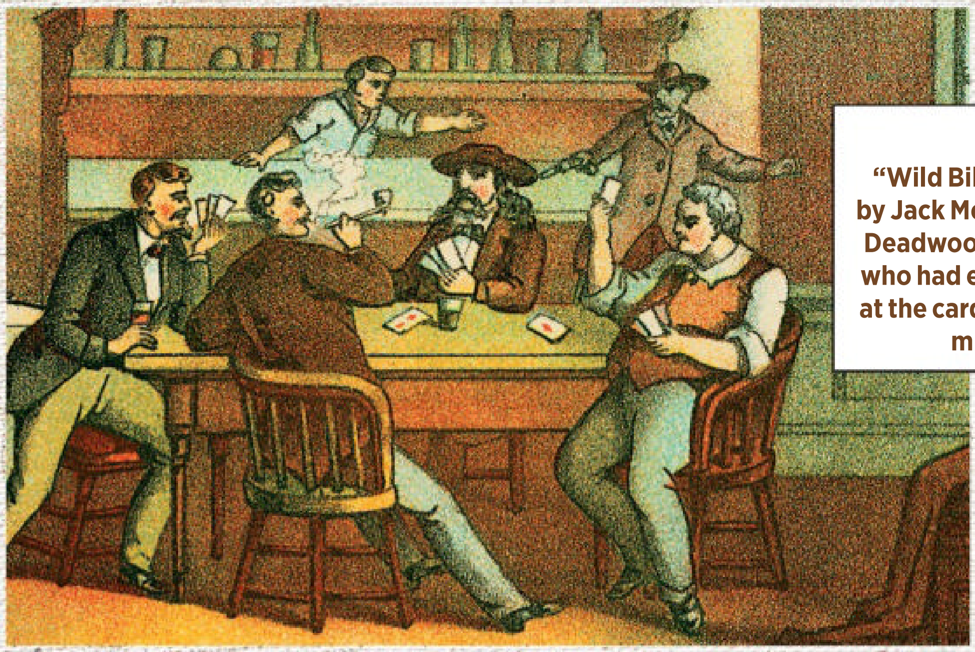
The Era of Great Cattle Drives

As early as 1836, ranchers in Texas began driving cattle to New Orleans, and by the 1840s, cattle drives headed northward into Missouri along the Shawnee Trail. During the Civil War, Texas beef was sent to Confederate states, but in 1865 Philip Danforth Armour opened a meatpacking plant in Chicago that spurred an increase in demand for beef nationwide. By 1866, rising beef prices made it financially feasible to drive cattle long distances to northern markets. The era of great cattle drives began in 1866 when Texas cattlemen drove some 260,000 head of cattle north across the Red River. By 1867 the town of Abilene, Kansas, had become a rowdy center of cattle shipping, as ranchers drove their herds along the Chisholm Trail.

THE 1870S

THE WAY OF THE GUN

1870 JUNE 4
Tom "Bear River" Smith is named marshal of Abilene, Kansas, an important northern stopping point for cattle drives from Texas and a notoriously rowdy town where cowboys routinely shoot up ordinance posters banning guns. With Smith as lawman, the violence abates, but in November the marshal is killed while serving an arrest warrant. He will be succeeded the following April by "Wild Bill" Hickok.

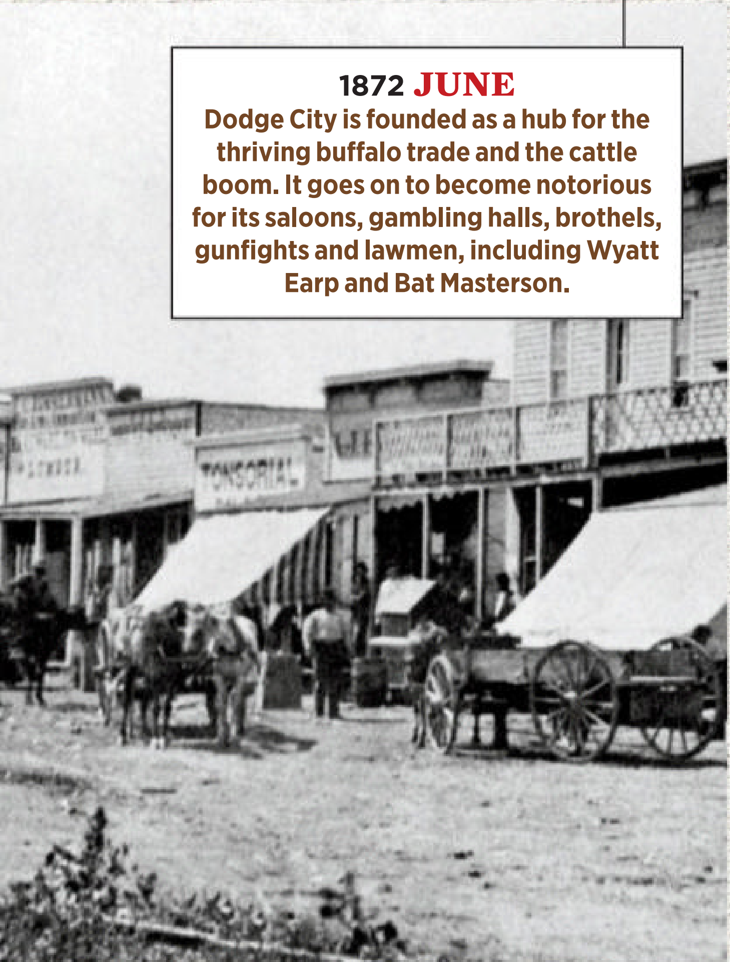


1876 AUG. 2
"Wild Bill" Hickok is shot and killed by Jack McCall during a poker game in Deadwood, Dakota Territory. McCall, who had earlier lost heavily to Hickok at the card table, was tried (twice) for murder and executed.

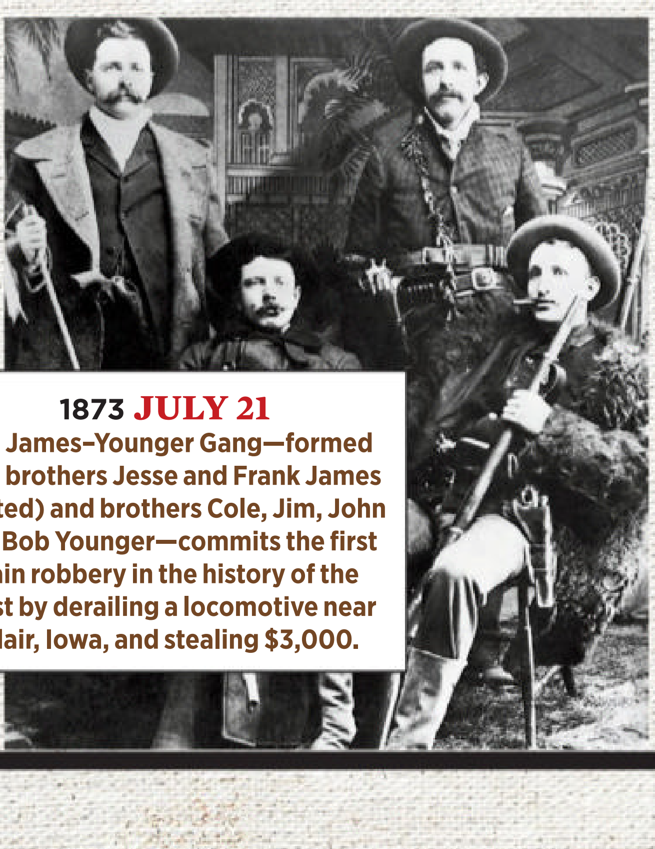
1876 AUG. 1
Colorado is admitted as the 38th U.S. state.

1870 1872 1873 1874 1876

1872 JUNE
Dodge City is founded as a hub for the thriving buffalo trade and the cattle boom. It goes on to become notorious for its saloons, gambling halls, brothels, gunfights and lawmen, including Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson.



1874 JULY–AUGUST
An expedition led by U.S. Army Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer begins exploring the Black Hills of present-day South Dakota. The expedition discovers gold, triggering a gold rush that draws thousands of settlers to the area, creating tension with Sioux inhabitants of the region.



1873 JULY 21
The James–Younger Gang—formed with brothers Jesse and Frank James (seated) and brothers Cole, Jim, John and Bob Younger—commits the first train robbery in the history of the West by derailing a locomotive near Adair, Iowa, and stealing $3,000.

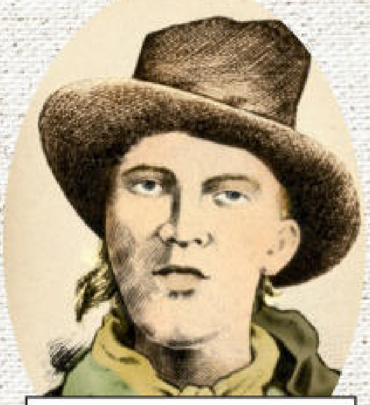
1876 JUNE 25
While leading an attack on a Sioux village in the Montana Territory, the U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment under Custer is ambushed and massacred by more than 2,000 Lakota and Cheyenne warriors at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

CUSTER'S LAST STAND

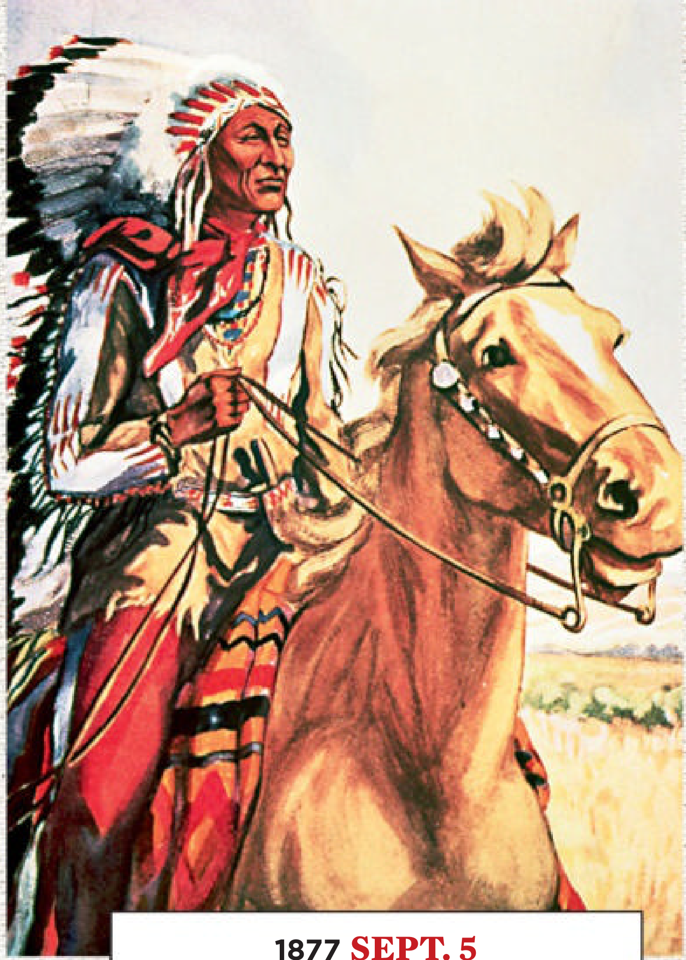
Miscalculation in Montana

In 1875, after the discovery of gold on Native American lands in the Black Hills of South Dakota, the U.S. Army moved into the region to protect white settlers, ignoring treaties with Native Americans. In response, many Sioux and Cheyenne people had left their reservations and gone to Montana to join with Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, Lakota leaders who resisted U.S. efforts to put their people on reservations. By the late spring of 1876, more than 10,000 Native Americans had gathered in a camp along the Little Bighorn River. In mid-June, three columns of U.S. troops, including Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's 7th Cavalry Regiment, moved to confront them. On June 17, one of the columns was turned back by Native Americans, and five days later Custer was sent to scout ahead for other warriors. On June 25, Custer neared the large Native American camp; underestimating the number of enemy he was facing, he pressed on rather than waiting for reinforcements.

When Custer's 600 men entered the Little Bighorn Valley, they were attacked by more than 2,000 warriors commanded by Crazy Horse. Five of the 7th Cavalry's 12 companies were annihilated. In all, 268 U.S. soldiers were killed in the Battle of the Little Bighorn, including Custer. Afterward, the U.S. increased its efforts to subdue the tribes, and within five years almost all of the Sioux and Cheyenne would be confined to reservations.

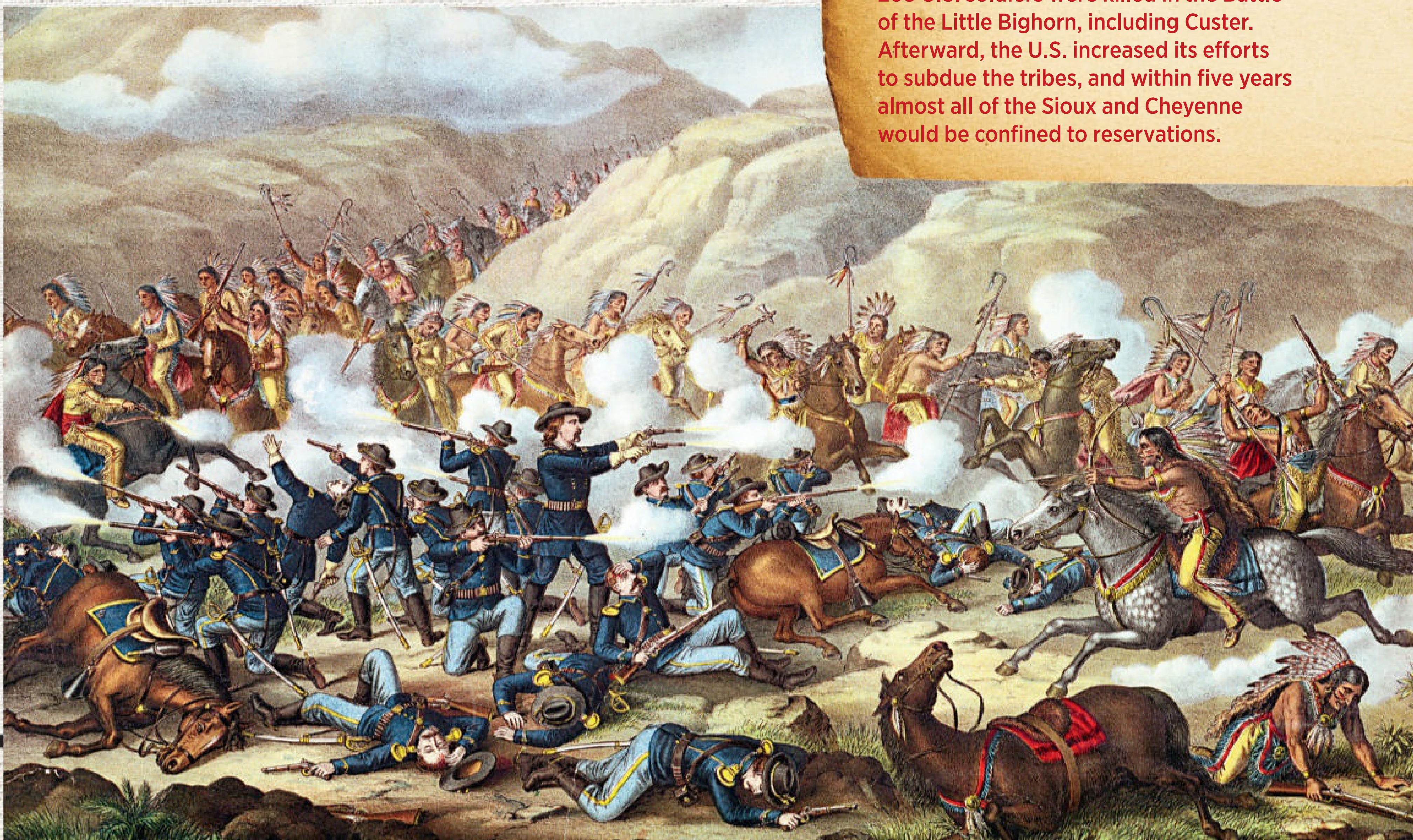


1877 AUG. 17
17-year-old Henry McCarty shoots blacksmith Francis P. "Windy" Cahill in a saloon near Fort Grant, Arizona. It's the first kill for the gunman who would come to be known as Billy the Kid.



1877 SEPT. 5
Four months after surrendering to the U.S. Army, Lakota war leader Crazy Horse, who had helped lead the attack at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, is fatally bayonetted by a U.S. Army soldier while allegedly resisting imprisonment at Fort Robinson in Nebraska.

1877

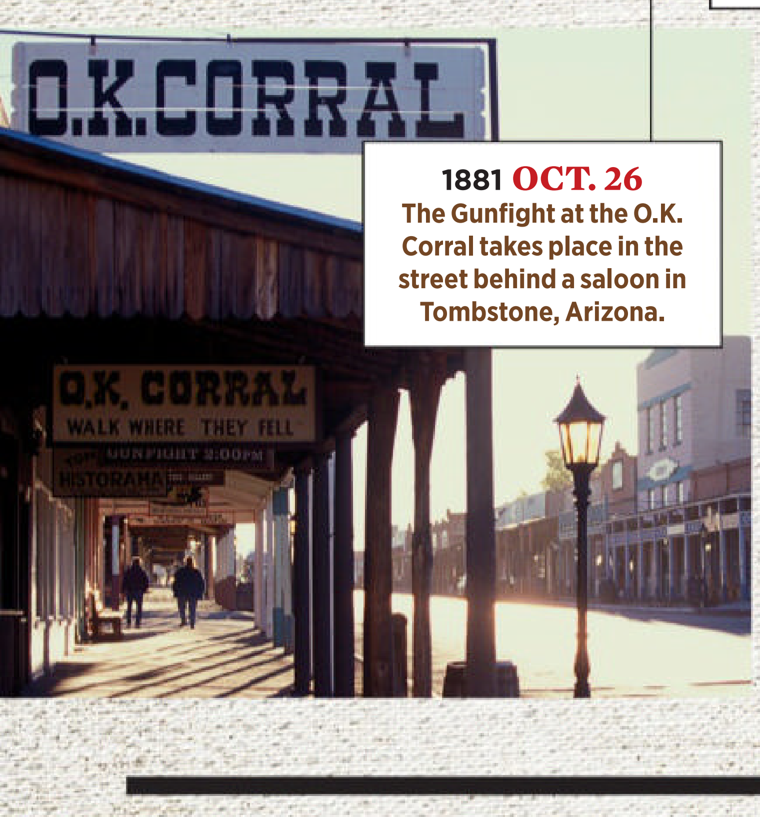


THE 1880S OUTLAW'S FATE

1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1886

1880 DEC. 19
Tom O'Folliard, best friend of Billy the Kid, is shot and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett in Fort Sumner, New Mexico. Four days later, another member of Billy's gang, Charlie Bowdre, is killed by Garrett's posse at Stinking Springs, New Mexico. His last words were, "I wish, I wish...."

1881 JULY 14
Billy the Kid, age 21, is shot and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett in Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

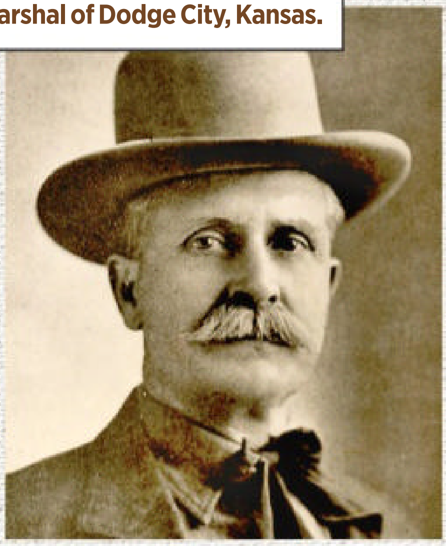


1881 OCT. 26
The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral takes place in the street behind a saloon in Tombstone, Arizona.

1882 MARCH 18
Morgan Earp is shot and killed while playing billiards in Tombstone, in retaliation for his involvement in the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. When a judge releases the suspected assassins, Morgan's brother Wyatt sets out with a posse to bring them in.

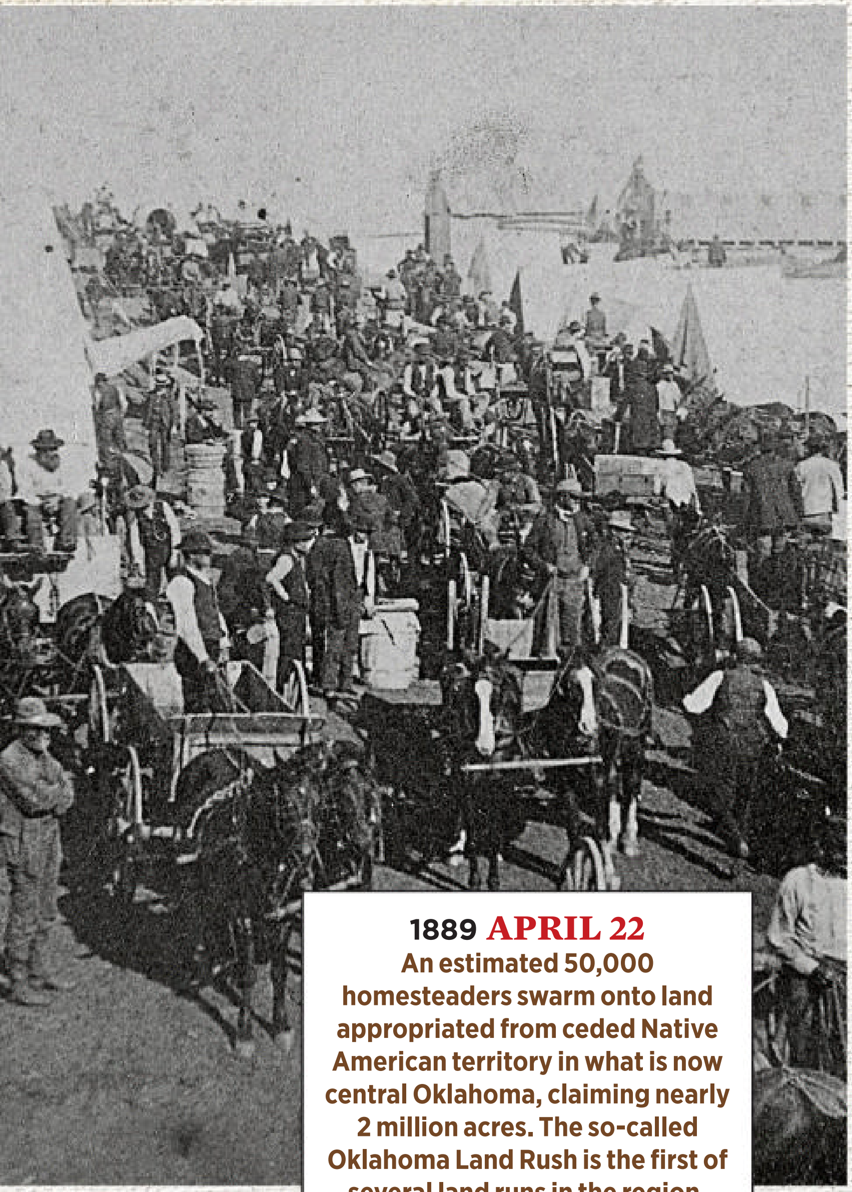
1882 APRIL 3
Jesse James is shot in the back of the head by Robert Ford, a new recruit to his gang, at his home in St. Joseph, Missouri.

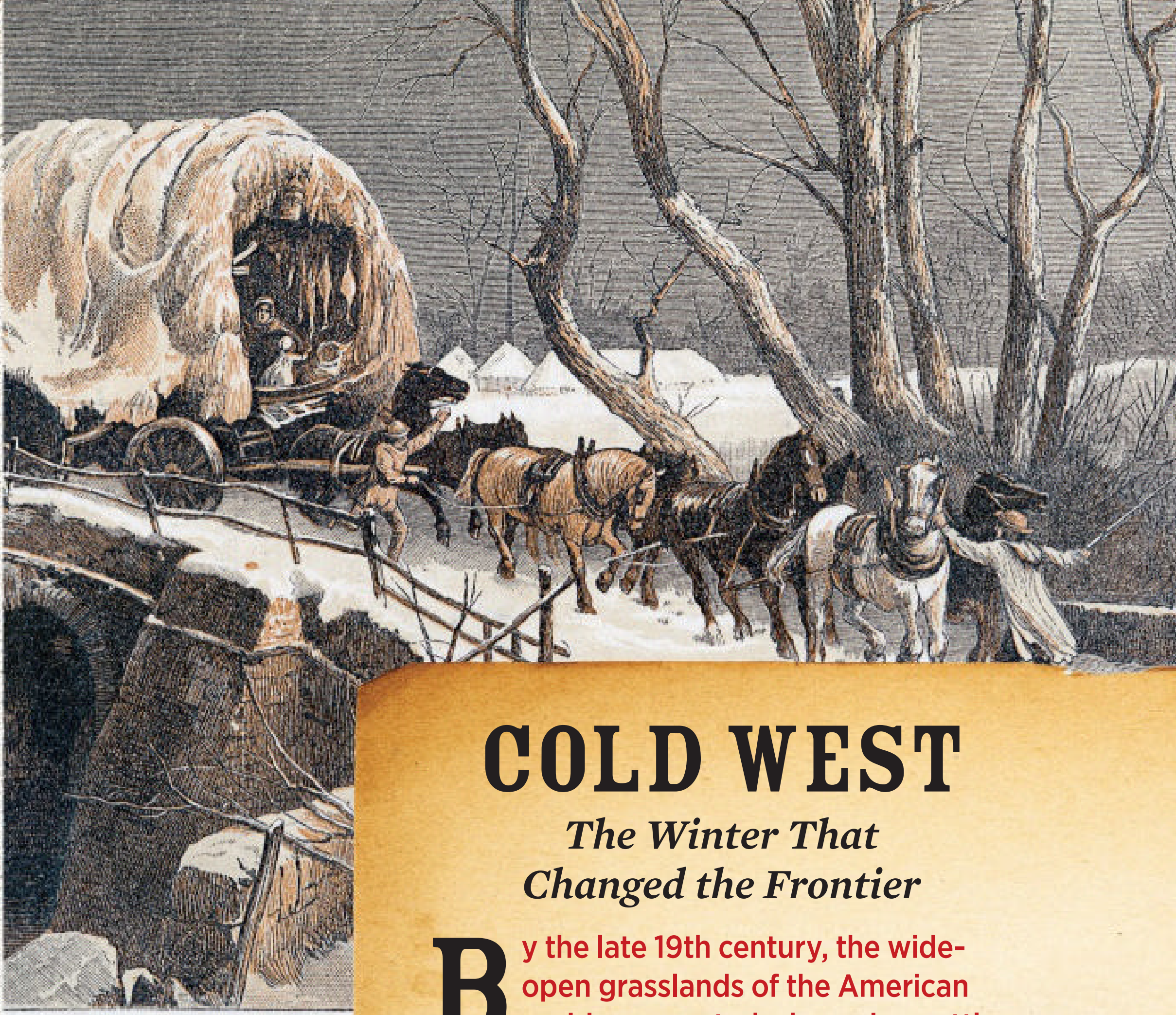
1883 JAN. 12
The Southern section of the second transcontinental railroad line is completed. By the following September, the Northern Pacific Railroad is completed. The line connects St. Paul, Minnesota, with Washington Territory.



1884 APRIL 10
Lawman William "Bill" Tilghman is appointed city marshal of Dodge City, Kansas.

1886 SEPT. 4
The Apache Wars come to an end after famed warrior Geronimo surrenders to U.S. Army Lt. Charles Bare Gatewood, an Apache-speaking West Point graduate who had earned Geronimo's respect.





COLD WEST

The Winter That Changed the Frontier

By the late 19th century, the wide-open grasslands of the American prairie supported a booming cattle industry—according to some estimates, about 5.7 million head of cattle were driven to market or northern ranges between 1866 and 1885. But the hot and dry summer of 1886 scorched prairie grasses, and by the time an early snow began falling in November, livestock were already starving. A blizzard in January 1887 brought heavy snow and extreme cold, killing off herds and bankrupting ranchers. Future President Theodore Roosevelt, who had hoped to become a cattle king with his ranch in the Dakota Territory, was among those hard hit by what came to be called the Big Die-Up. The disaster brought to an end the era of the open range and roaming cowboys, as ranchers began keeping smaller herds of livestock in fenced-in grazing areas.

1889

1889 FEB. 3
Myra Maybelle Shirley Reed Starr, aka outlaw Belle Starr, is murdered in Oklahoma by person or persons still unknown.

1889 APRIL 22
An estimated 50,000 homesteaders swarm onto land appropriated from ceded Native American territory in what is now central Oklahoma, claiming nearly 2 million acres. The so-called Oklahoma Land Rush is the first of several land runs in the region.

1889 JUNE 24
Outlaw Robert Leroy Parker, aka Butch Cassidy, robs his first bank in Telluride, Colorado.

1889 NOV. 2
North and South Dakota are admitted as U.S. states. Days later Montana and Washington are admitted to the Union.

BELLE STARR

Death of the Bandit Queen

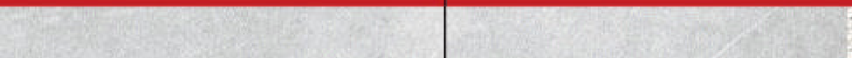
On Feb. 3, 1889, famed outlaw Belle Starr came to a violent Wild West end when someone shot her as she rode home from a friend's house in Eufaula, Oklahoma. Born Myra Maybelle Shirley in 1848 near Carthage, Missouri, she was given a classical education and learned to play the piano, but when the Civil War ruined her father's business as an innkeeper, the family headed to Texas, where she began a relationship with outlaw Cole Younger. She later married another outlaw, Jim Reed, and joined him in stealing cattle. "I am a friend to any brave and gallant outlaw," she once said. When Reed was killed by another outlaw, Belle made her way to Oklahoma Indian Territory and led a band of horse thieves. She married a Cherokee man named Sam Starr and spent some time in prison, but later, after Sam was killed in a gunfight, she stepped back from the outlaw life. The identity of the person who shot her in 1889 remains a mystery.

THE 1890S CLOSING FRONTIER

1890 JULY 3
Idaho is admitted as the 43rd U.S. state. The same month, the superintendent of the U.S. Census declares that rapid Western settlement means that "there can hardly be said to be a frontier line." In July, Wyoming becomes the 44th state.

1892 OCT. 5
Four members of the notorious Dalton Gang are killed in a shoot-out with townspeople while trying to rob two banks at the same time in Coffeyville, Kansas. Two of the dead are brothers Bob and Gratton "Grat" Dalton (left). Another brother, Bill Dalton, later starts a gang with outlaw Bill Doolin known as the Dalton-Doolin Gang or the Wild Bunch.

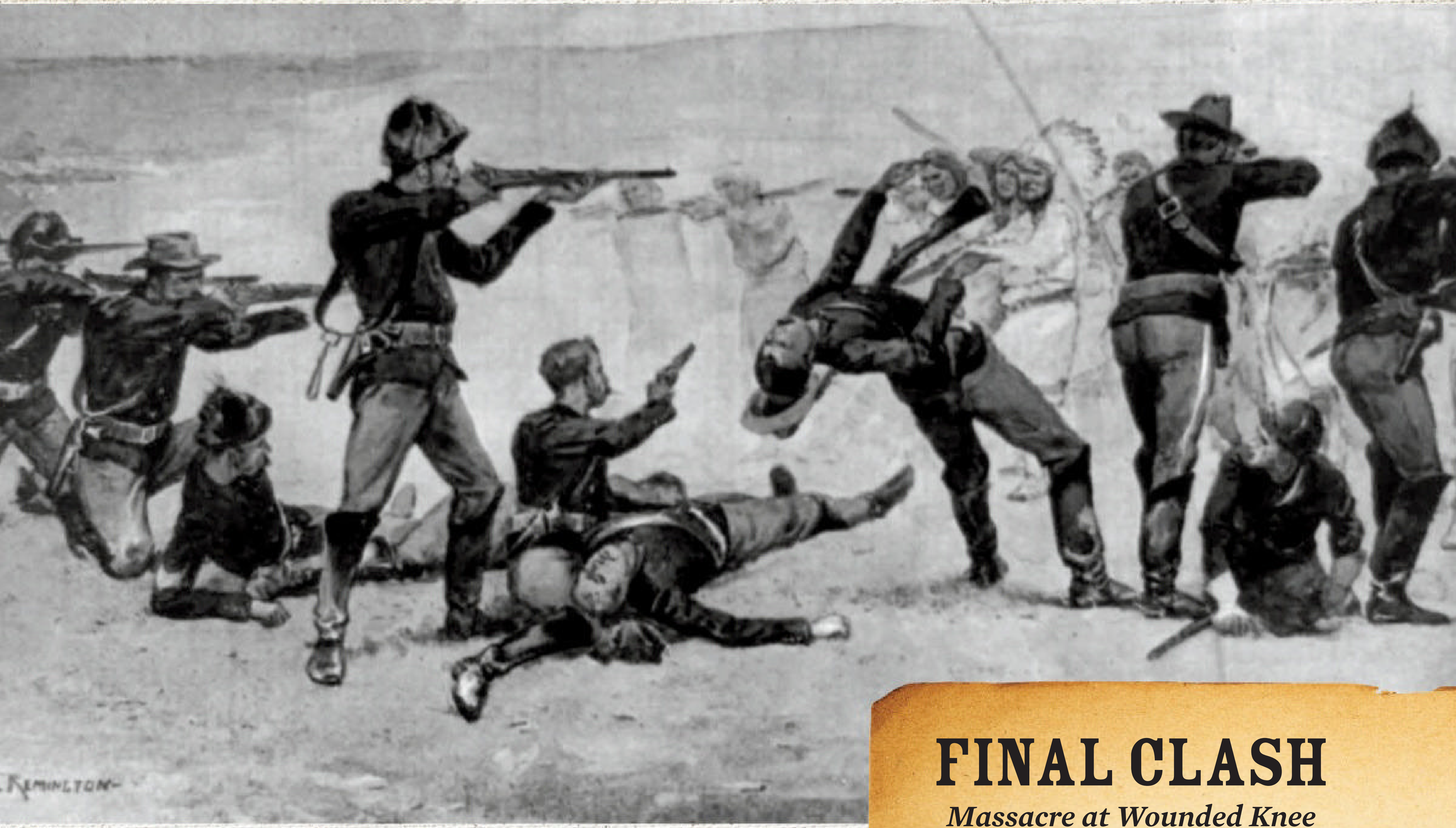
1890 1892 1893 1895



1890 DEC. 29
The U.S. 7th Cavalry kills some 150 Lakota men, women and children at Wounded Knee Creek on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota (see sidebar).

1893 SEPT. 1
A posse organized by U.S. Marshal Evett Dumas "E.D." Nix (below) arrives in the Oklahoma Territory town of Ingalls, intent on capturing the Dalton-Doolin Gang. A gunfight leaves three of 14 lawmen dead, while the outlaws escape. Bill Dalton later forms his own gang and is killed by lawmen in 1894.

1895 AUG. 19
John Wesley Hardin, a famed outlaw who killed his first man at age 15, is shot from behind and killed by John Selman at the Acme Saloon in El Paso, Texas. Selman, a lawman and former outlaw, claims self-defense at his trial and is eventually freed. But he is killed the following year in a shoot-out with a U.S. marshal after arguing over a card game.



FINAL CLASH

Massacre at Wounded Knee

Throughout 1890, the U.S. worried about growing unrest at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota, where many Sioux were falling under the influence of the Ghost Dance spiritual movement: They believed that performance of the Ghost Dance—a solemn ritual performed to a single drumbeat—would cause the spirits of ancestors to return and create the world anew, ending white encroachment on their land. On Dec. 15, reservation police arrested Lakota chief Sitting Bull, who, they worried, might support the Ghost Dance movement. Sitting Bull was killed in the process, increasing tensions on the reservation.

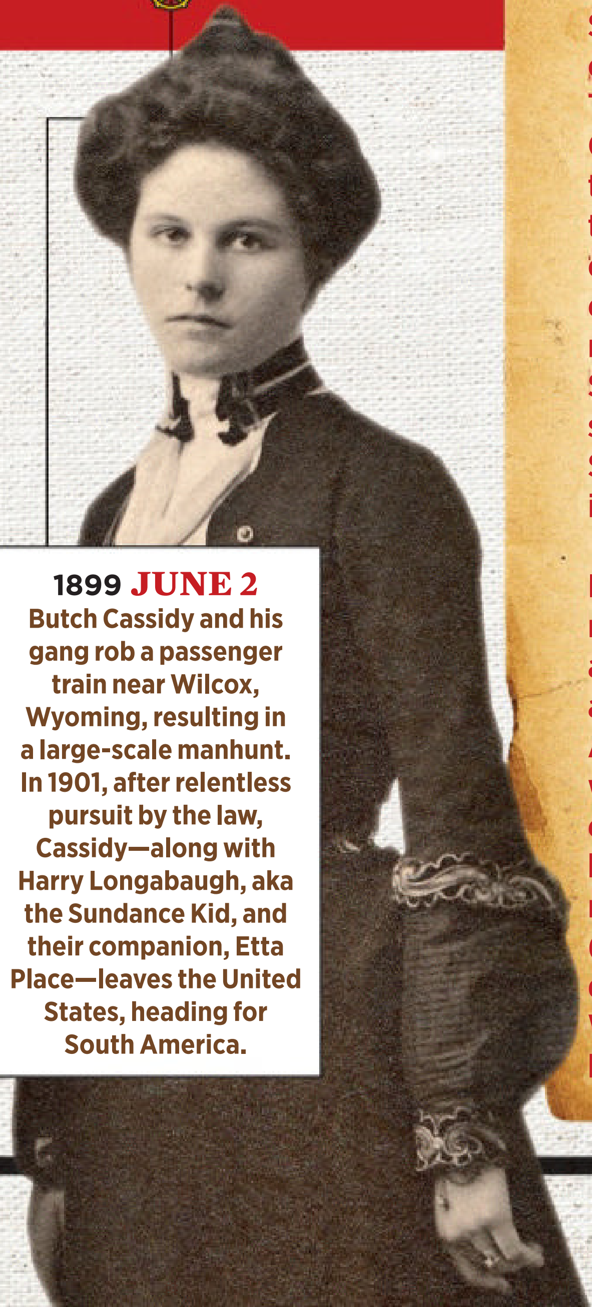
On Dec. 29, the U.S. Army 7th Cavalry Regiment surrounded a band of Lakota near Wounded Knee Creek. Various accounts describe what happened next, after a fight broke out between a Native American and a U.S. soldier. A shot was fired, though it is unclear where it came from. In the following moments at least 150 Native Americans were killed, nearly half of them women and children. (Some historians place the number of dead closer to 300.) The Massacre at Wounded Knee was the final scuffle between federal troops and the Sioux.

1896

1899

1896 JAN. 4
Utah is admitted as the 45th U.S. state.

1896 JAN. 15
Lawman Bill Tilghman captures outlaw Bill Doolin (above) in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and returns him to the Oklahoma Territory. Doolin escapes from prison on July 5. He is killed by Deputy U.S. Marshal Heck Thomas in Oklahoma Territory in August.



1899 JUNE 2
Butch Cassidy and his gang rob a passenger train near Wilcox, Wyoming, resulting in a large-scale manhunt. In 1901, after relentless pursuit by the law, Cassidy—along with Harry Longabaugh, aka the Sundance Kid, and their companion, Etta Place—leaves the United States, heading for South America.

Mark Twain wrote about being "jammed like sardines on the hard seats" of a Concord coach.

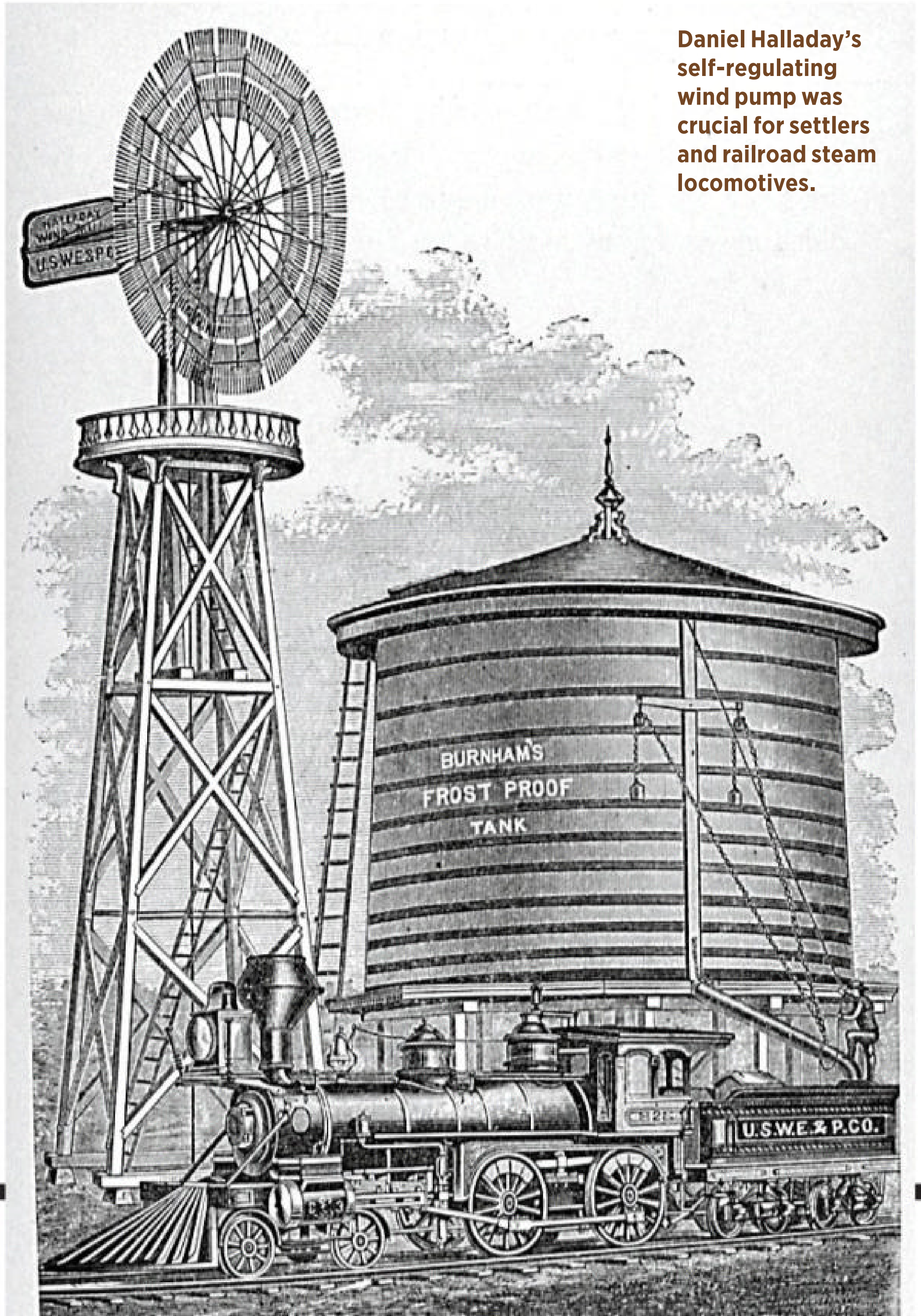
A LANDSCAPE OF INNOVATION

FIVE INVENTIONS THAT OPENED UP THE WEST AND CHANGED HISTORY, FROM STURDY WHEELS AND DEADLY WEAPONS TO WIND POWER, "THORNY WIRE" AND A WIDE-BRIMMED HAT.

America's westward expansion took place during a period of sweeping change, as life-changing technologies like railroads and the telegraph revolutionized transportation and communication. But there were hundreds of inventions great and small that helped open the West to settlement. In 1837, blacksmith and inventor John Deere forged a steel plow and prompted a farming revolution that would transform the prairie. Conestoga wagons, developed in the 18th century by farmers in Pennsylvania to haul grain to cities, were precursors of the flat-bottomed covered wagons (nicknamed "prairie schooners") that hauled settlers westward on the Oregon Trail in the 19th century. Later, the Civil War spurred the development of weaponry, including rifles and revolvers. Here, we spotlight five inventions that helped to win the West. Fundamentally transformative, they also became icons of the era.

The Concord Stagecoach

In *Roughing It*, his 1872 memoir of life in the West, Mark Twain recalled the jolting, dusty, wearying experience of riding from Missouri to Nevada in a stagecoach, an "imposing cradle on wheels" that stopped every 10 miles



Daniel Halladay's self-regulating wind pump was crucial for settlers and railroad steam locomotives.

ABOVE George Armstrong Custer with scouts (and weaponry) in Montana Territory in the early 1870s.

RIGHT Buffalo Bill Cody helped make John Stetson's hats famous in his Wild West show.

to change horses. But as uncomfortable as it might have been, until the transcontinental railroad came along, the stagecoach was state-of-the-art travel technology for people heading to the frontier. And the stagecoach that took them there was the Concord coach, first developed and built by J. Stephen Abbot and Lewis Downing of Concord, New Hampshire, in the late 1820s.

The Concord coach was purpose-built for rugged terrain and long-distance hauls. Made of oak and ash wood and braced with iron fittings, it was sturdy; meanwhile, thick leather straps supported the carriage, providing passengers with a swinging and swaying experience that made a stagecoach ride tolerable if not enjoyable. At the front and back were leather "boots" for baggage, mail and valuables. Larger versions could hold nine passengers inside—or more, if they wanted to sit on the roof. (The leather-covered seats inside offered little legroom on crowded trips.) Weighing more than 2,000 pounds, they were drawn by four, six and sometimes more horses and had a top speed of about 8 miles an hour. By the early 1900s, trains and new motor buses ended the era of the stagecoach.

Daniel Halladay's Windmill

Settlers on the prairie had to adapt to an arid climate—one without fast-moving streams to power granaries and pump water. Instead, they depended on wind power, and during the 1850s American inventors got busy applying for dozens of windmill patents.

But one design stood out. On Aug. 29, 1854, machinist and inventor Daniel Halladay of Ellington, Connecticut, received a patent for an adaptable "wind wheel" design that could automatically turn to face changing wind directions. It also maintained a uniform speed even in high winds by changing the pitch of the sails, all without human oversight. Halladay founded the Halladay Wind Mill Company in Connecticut and went about manufacturing a deceptively simple device that would become a part of the Western landscape.

Halladay's invention was not only crucial for farmers who needed to pump water for irrigation and ranchers who needed water for livestock, but also for the burgeoning railroad industry, which needed water for the steam-powered locomotives making their way westward across the prairie. Halladay later moved his business to Illinois to be closer to railroad hubs in the West.

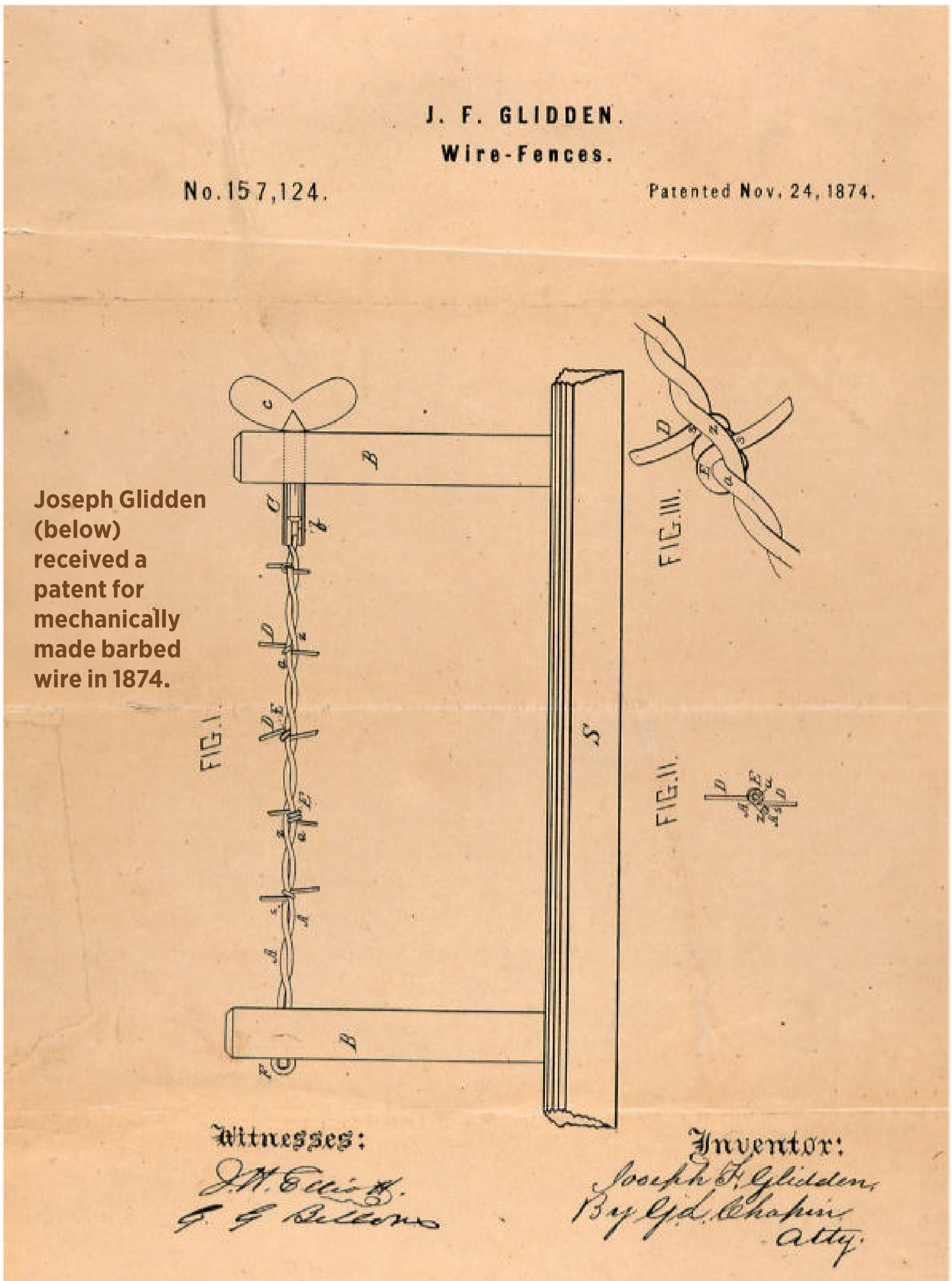
Samuel Colt's 'Peacemaker'

An 1874 advertisement circulated by B. Kittredge & Co.—the Cincinnati distributor for the Colt Arms Company—touted a number of new guns, most prominently a "metallic cartridge revolving pistol" that it called the "Peacemaker." The nickname stuck and a legend was born: Of all the weapons associated with the Wild West, none is more famous than the 1873 Colt Single Action Army revolver. Used by cowboys, lawmen and outlaws (including Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson and John Wesley Hardin), it was known for being one of the best balanced six-guns of the age. Produced in versions for various calibers—most notably .45—and with various barrel lengths, it outsold all competitors by the end of the 19th century.

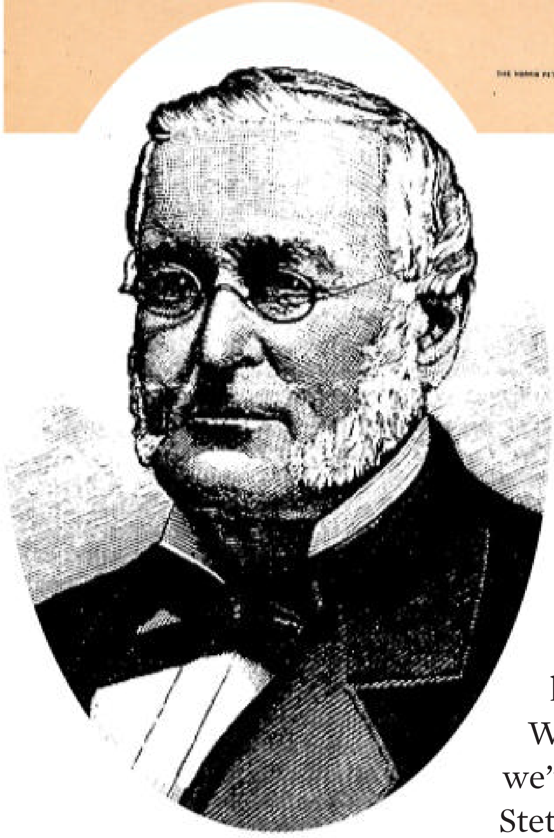
Samuel Colt didn't invent the revolver, but he is credited with making the mass-production of revolvers commercially viable. Among his other significant handguns was the Model 1851 Navy revolver, which was also known for its superb balance. Nearly a quarter million of these .36 caliber revolvers were made between 1850 and 1873. The Colt Navy revolver was a favorite of James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok.

John B. Stetson's Boss of the Plains Hat

Men in the West wore a variety of headgear, depending on what they did and where they lived. You might see top hats, coonskin hats, sea captain hats, woolen hats, military hats left over from the Civil War, and bowlers. Cowboys in Texas preferred sombreros or other wide-brimmed, high-crowned hats adapted from those worn



Joseph Glidden (below) received a patent for mechanically made barbed wire in 1874.

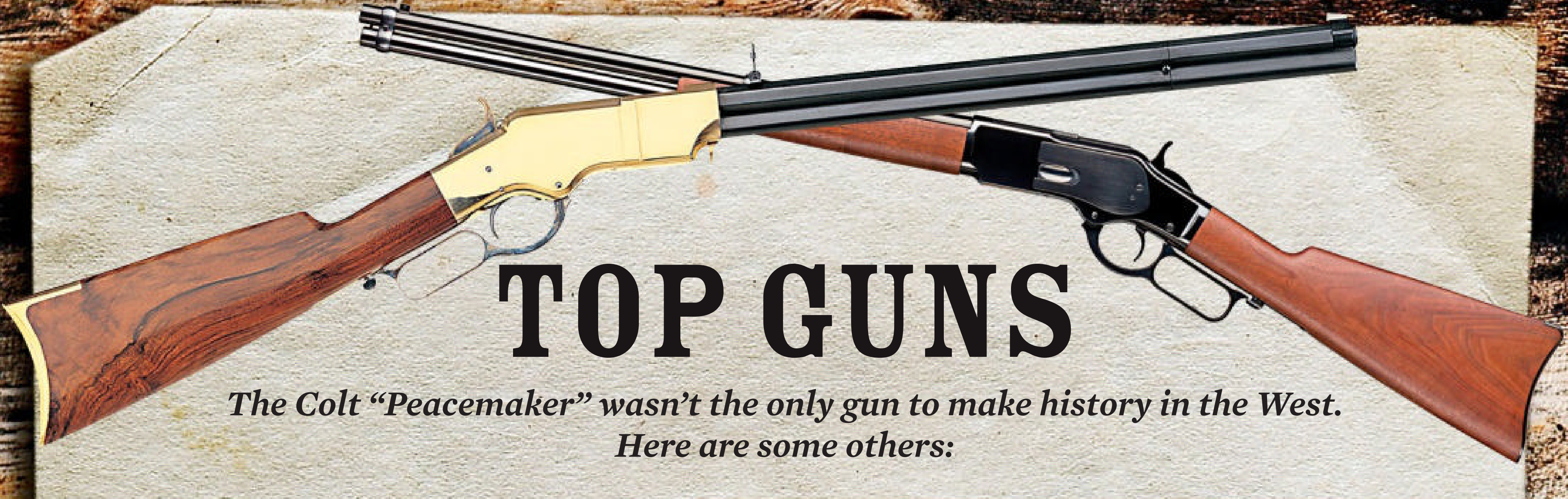


by Mexican vaqueros (Spanish for "cowboys"). But all that changed in 1865, when John Batterson Stetson, a Philadelphia hat manufacturer who had traveled through the West as a young man, introduced his Boss of the Plains—a lightweight, durable, waterproof hat designed for the needs of Westerners. The cowboy hat, as we've come to know it, was born. Stetson's hat featured a wide, rounded, stiff brim to protect wearers from sun and rain, and a high crown to provide insulation from heat and cold. Tightly woven beaver felt made it waterproof—so much so that it could also be used hold water in an emergency. (Stetson advertising sometimes featured a cowboy watering his horse from a hat.) As the hats aged and became supple, their crowns might become dented—a look some wearers liked. Soon, men were customizing the crowns, rolling the brims and adding personalized ornamentation. Stetson noticed, and started adding new styles. The brand also got a promotional boost from Buffalo Bill, who wore customized versions of the hat in his Wild West show.

Barbed Wire

White settlers who flooded onto the Western frontier in the 1860s found a vast grassland prairie lacking in an important resource—timber. They built homes out of sod, but they also needed fencing to protect crops from free-roaming bison and cattle and to pen in their own animals. Importing lumber from the East was expensive and impractical: Ranchers on the Great Plains from Texas to Canada considered it cheaper to hire cowboys to watch over their herds. But a new invention, barbed wire, would soon bring to an end the heyday of the cowboy in the Wild West.

There wasn't a single inventor of barbed wire: According to one account, the U.S. Patent Office processed more than 200 different patents for various types of "spiked fencing" between 1867 and 1874. Lucien Smith of Kent, Ohio, received an early patent for his "thorny wire," but it wasn't until 1874, when Illinois farmer Joseph Glidden received a patent for mechanically produced barbed wire, that the industry took off. Glidden made a fortune, and other companies, including U.S. Steel, later got in on the barbed wire bonanza. While many ranchers in the West began ringing in their herds with wire, others resisted the end of the open range, and "fence-cutting" wars ensued. In response, Texas and other states adopted laws regulating the use of the wire and outlawing fence-cutting.



TOP GUNS

The Colt "Peacemaker" wasn't the only gun to make history in the West. Here are some others:

THE HENRY 1860 RIFLE

The breach-loading, lever-action repeating rifle patented by Benjamin Tyler Henry in 1860 gained fame in the Civil War and later in the West when it was used by Sioux and Cheyenne warriors at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

THE SMITH & WESSON MODEL 3 REVOLVER

Introduced in 1870, this .44 caliber single-action six-shooter was a favorite of sharpshooter Annie Oakley, El Paso City Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire and others.

THE 1873 WINCHESTER RIFLE

Perhaps the most famous rifle of the Wild West era, it was turned into an icon by Hollywood in movies like 1950's *Winchester '73*. Produced through 1919, more than a half-million of the level-action rifles were sold.

THE 1874 SHARPS RIFLE

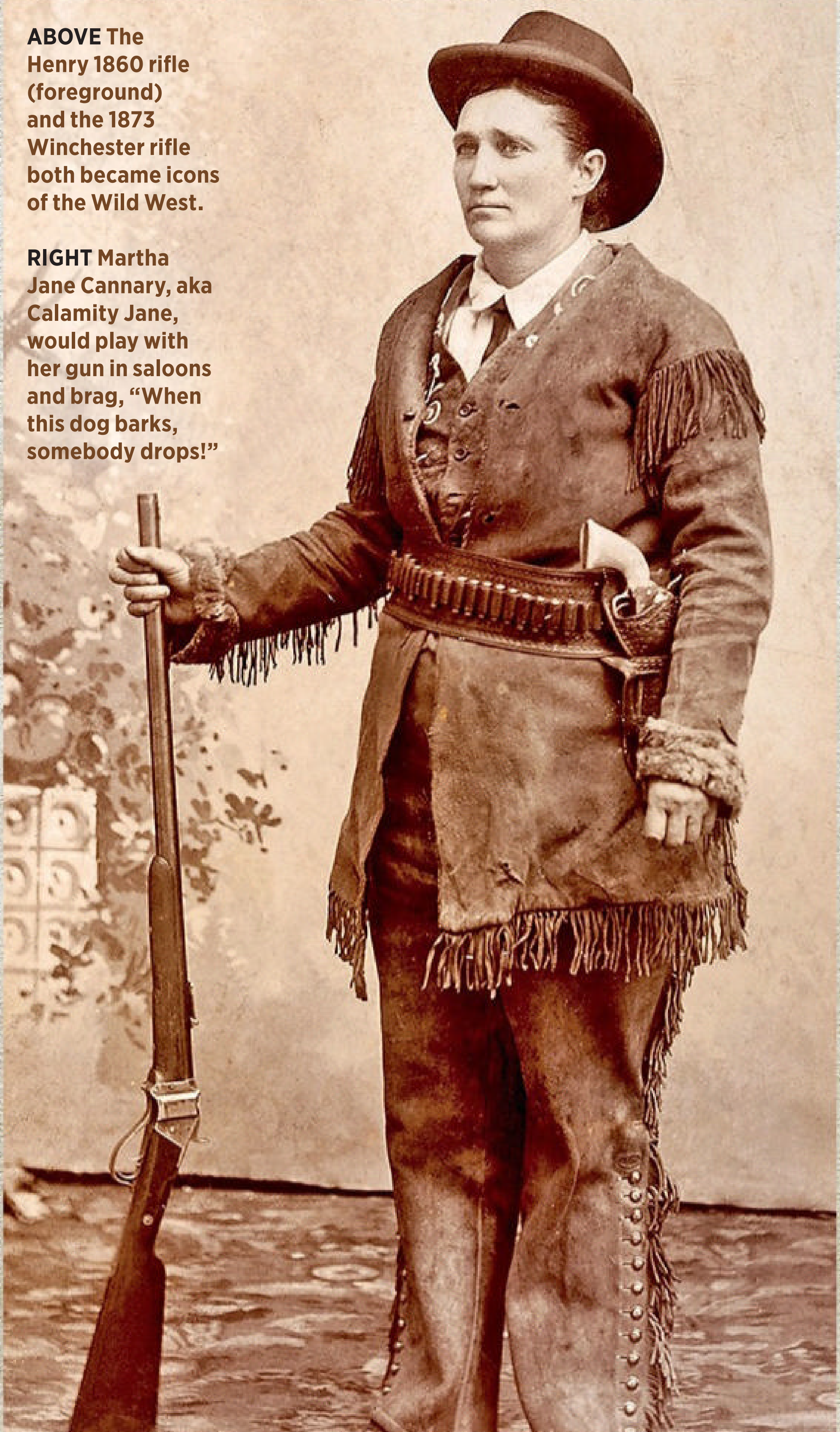
Sharps rifles were the favorite of buffalo hunters, and the 1874 model offered such powerful big-game loads as .44-77, .45-70, .50-90 and .50-110. It was a favorite of Calamity Jane.

THE 1876 WINCHESTER RIFLE

An enlarged version of the 1873 Winchester rifle dubbed the "Centennial Model," this lever-action big-game rifle chambered .40-60, .45-60, .45-75 and .50-96 loads. Cattleman (and future president) Theodore Roosevelt used one.

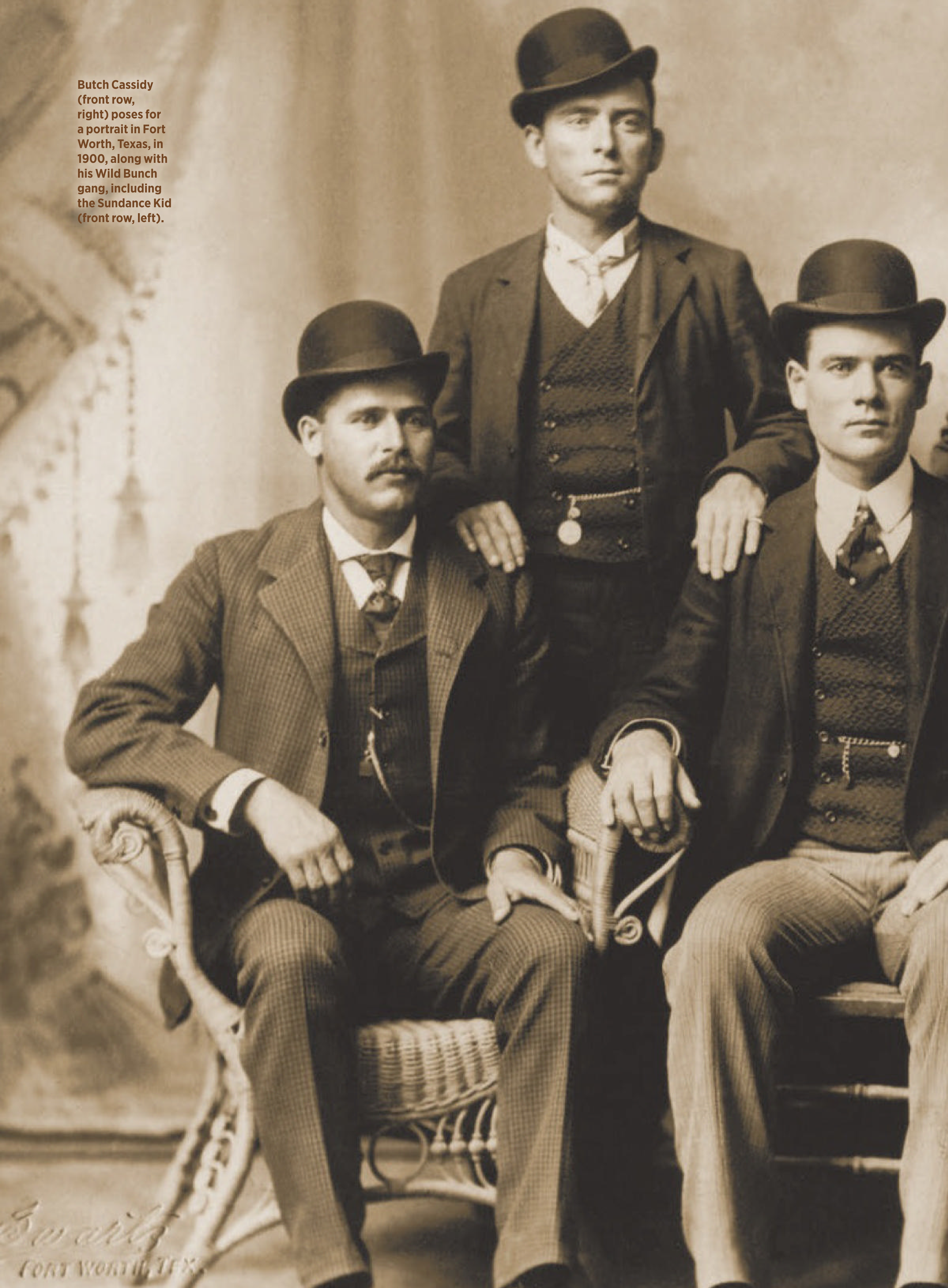
DOUBLE-BARRELED SHOTGUN

Although rifles and revolvers are glamorized for winning the West, cost-efficient and versatile double-barrel shotguns produced by a number of companies were the mainstay weapons of settlers, ranchers, hunters and stagecoach drivers.

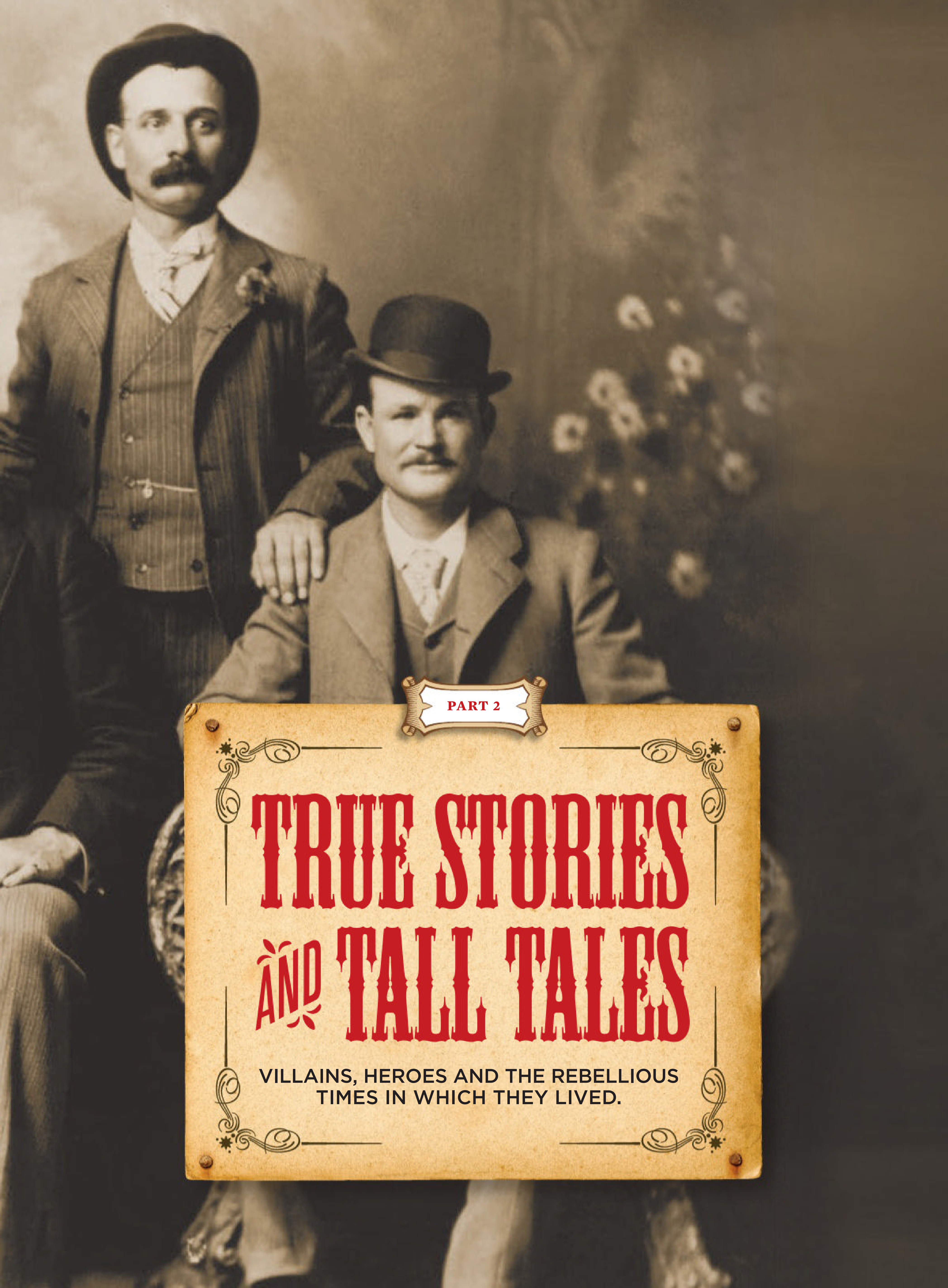


ABOVE The Henry 1860 rifle (foreground) and the 1873 Winchester rifle both became icons of the Wild West.

RIGHT Martha Jane Cannary, aka Calamity Jane, would play with her gun in saloons and brag, "When this dog barks, somebody drops!"


Swartz
FORT WORTH, TEX.

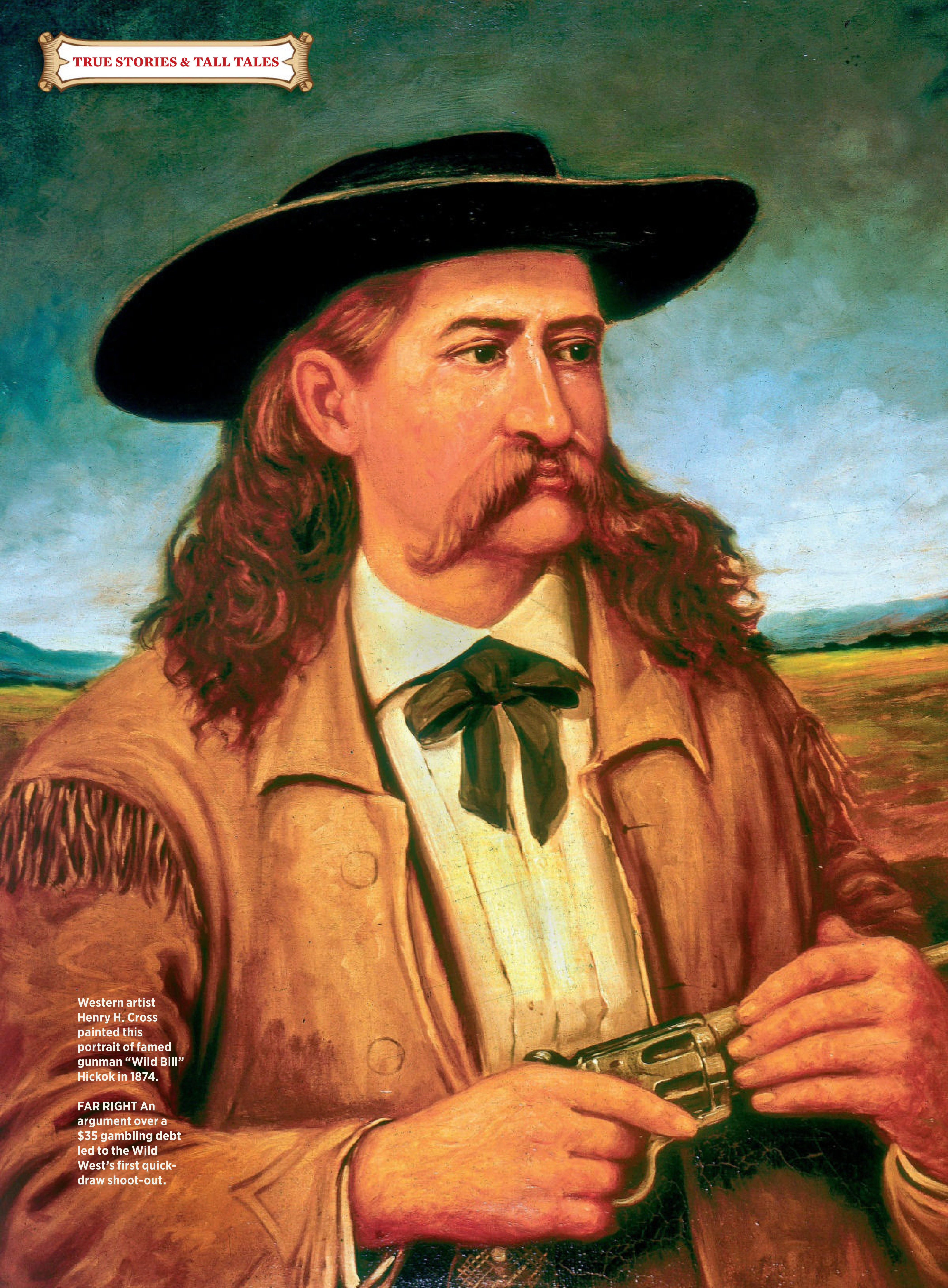
Butch Cassidy (front row, right) poses for a portrait in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1900, along with his Wild Bunch gang, including the Sundance Kid (front row, left).



PART 2

TRUE STORIES AND TALL TALES

VILLAINS, HEROES AND THE REBELLIOUS
TIMES IN WHICH THEY LIVED.



Western artist Henry H. Cross painted this portrait of famed gunman "Wild Bill" Hickok in 1874.

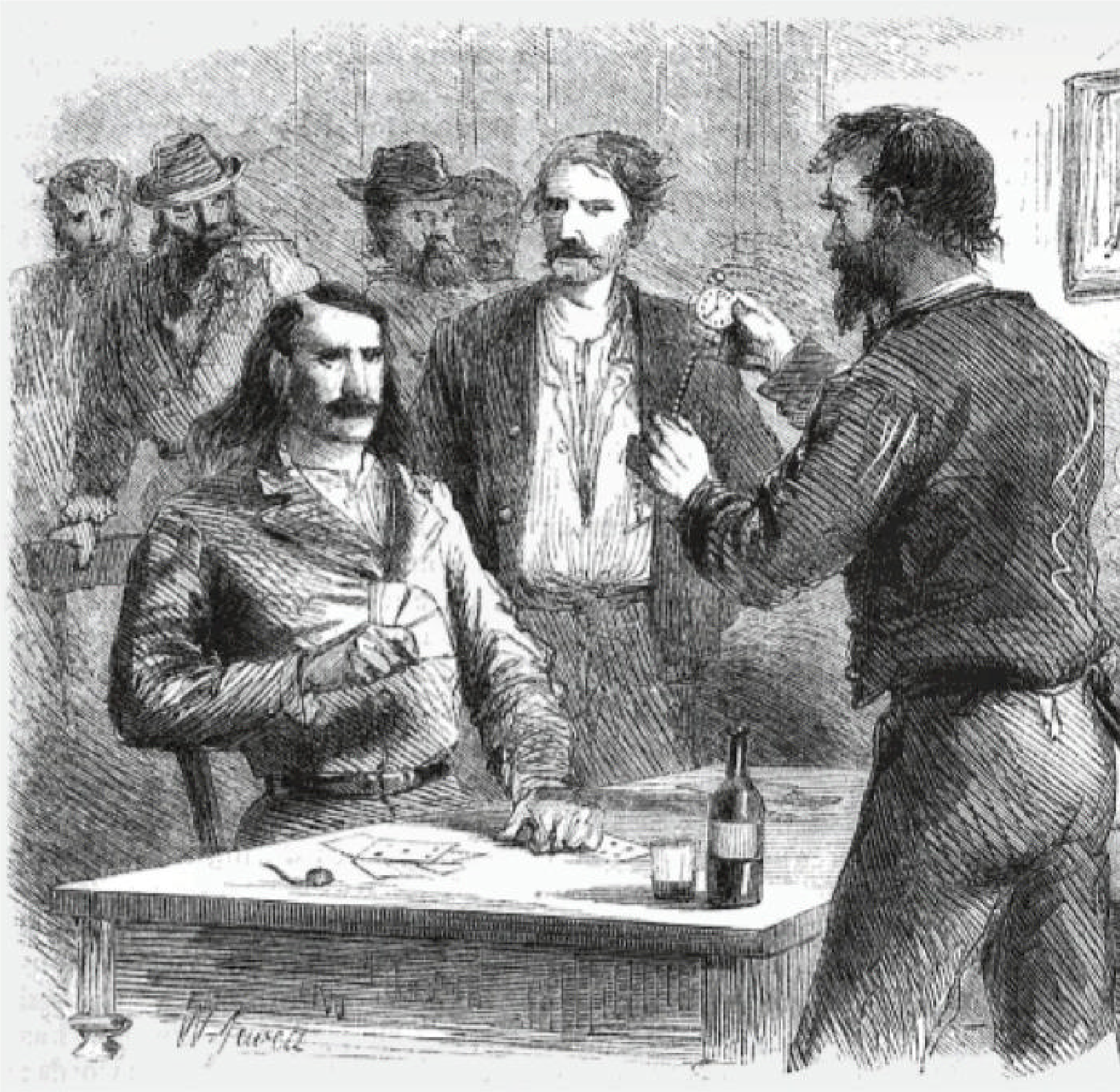
FAR RIGHT An argument over a $35 gambling debt led to the Wild West's first quick-draw shoot-out.

WILD BILL'S DEADLY DUEL

A STORY OF DANGEROUS DESPERADOS, HANDSOME HEROES AND THE PRICE OF FAME ON THE VIOLENT FRONTIER.

THERE'S A CASE TO BE MADE that the Wild West—that is, the Wild West as it has come to be imagined over the decades—actually began on July 21, 1865. That day, at around 6 p.m., two men stood facing each other in the town square of Springfield, Missouri. What transpired over the next few moments would turn one of them into a legend and provide the real-life inspiration for countless deadly showdowns in the Western novels and movies that would spin the tales of the unruly era in years to come.

Standing there in the street that day was a gambler and gunslinger named James Butler Hickok, known to locals as "Wild Bill," a nickname he'd been using for a few years. But as historian and novelist Frederick J. Chiaventone has noted, Hickok was not so much wild as "quiet, deliberate and deadly." Born in Illinois in 1837 to a large family steeped in abolitionist sentiments, Hickok had honed his gun skills from an early age, and after heading to the West in his 20s, he joined up with the Kansas free-state "Jayhawkers" as tensions over the expansion of slavery in the territory erupted in bloodshed.



Later, Hickok worked maintaining stock for the fledging Pony Express service at a relay station in Nebraska, and it was there, in 1861, that he may have killed his first man. Hickok went on to work for the Union army during the Civil War as a teamster and scout and then became a provost marshal in Missouri, charged with keeping drunken Union soldiers in line. Afterward, he drifted to Springfield, where he made his living by gambling. And there, just months after the war ended, he found trouble, in the form of Davis Tutt.

A former Confederate soldier, Tutt was also a gambler and bad blood developed between the two men, though the source of the animosity is not entirely clear. According to some accounts, Hickok and Tutt were former friends who'd fallen out over a woman. It's also possible that lingering political disagreements from the war strained the friendship. Whatever fueled the enmity, a spark set it ablaze when Tutt confronted Hickok in a Springfield poker room over a debt from an earlier card game. When Hickok paid up, Tutt reminded him of another $35 bet.

BELOW LEFT A gambler and former Confederate soldier, Davis Tutt originally came from Marion County, Arkansas.

BELOW RIGHT Hickok worked for a time in Springfield, Missouri, as a detective.

"I think you're wrong, Dave," Hickok is said to have replied. "It's only $25. I have a memorandum in my pocket."

Tutt then grabbed Hickok's prized Waltham pocket watch from the card table as collateral. When Hickok objected, Tutt boasted that he would flaunt the timepiece in public. That was his first mistake. His second mistake was making good on the taunt by appearing in the town square just before 6 p.m. the next day, wearing the watch and a gun. Hickok met him there, wearing a Colt Navy revolver at his hip. "Dave, here I am," he said. Standing 75 yards apart, both men drew guns and fired. Tutt's shot missed, but Hickok hit his mark. According to legend, Tutt called out, "Boys, I'm killed," then staggered to the courthouse steps and died.

'Gentle Face'

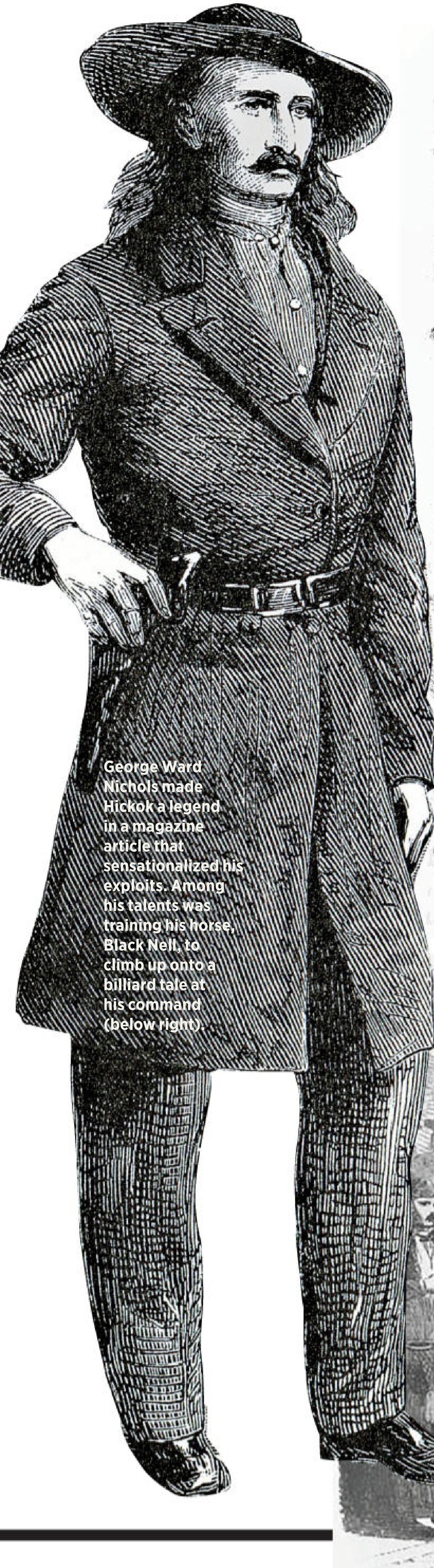
So ended what has been called the first public quick-draw duel in the West. Historians note that few such gunfights really took place, despite their common appearance in popular tales. For that misrepresentation the world can thank an intrepid journalist named George Ward Nichols, who arrived in Springfield two months after the Hickok–Tutt shoot-out and then wrote a story about "Wild Bill" for the monthly *Harper's Magazine*.

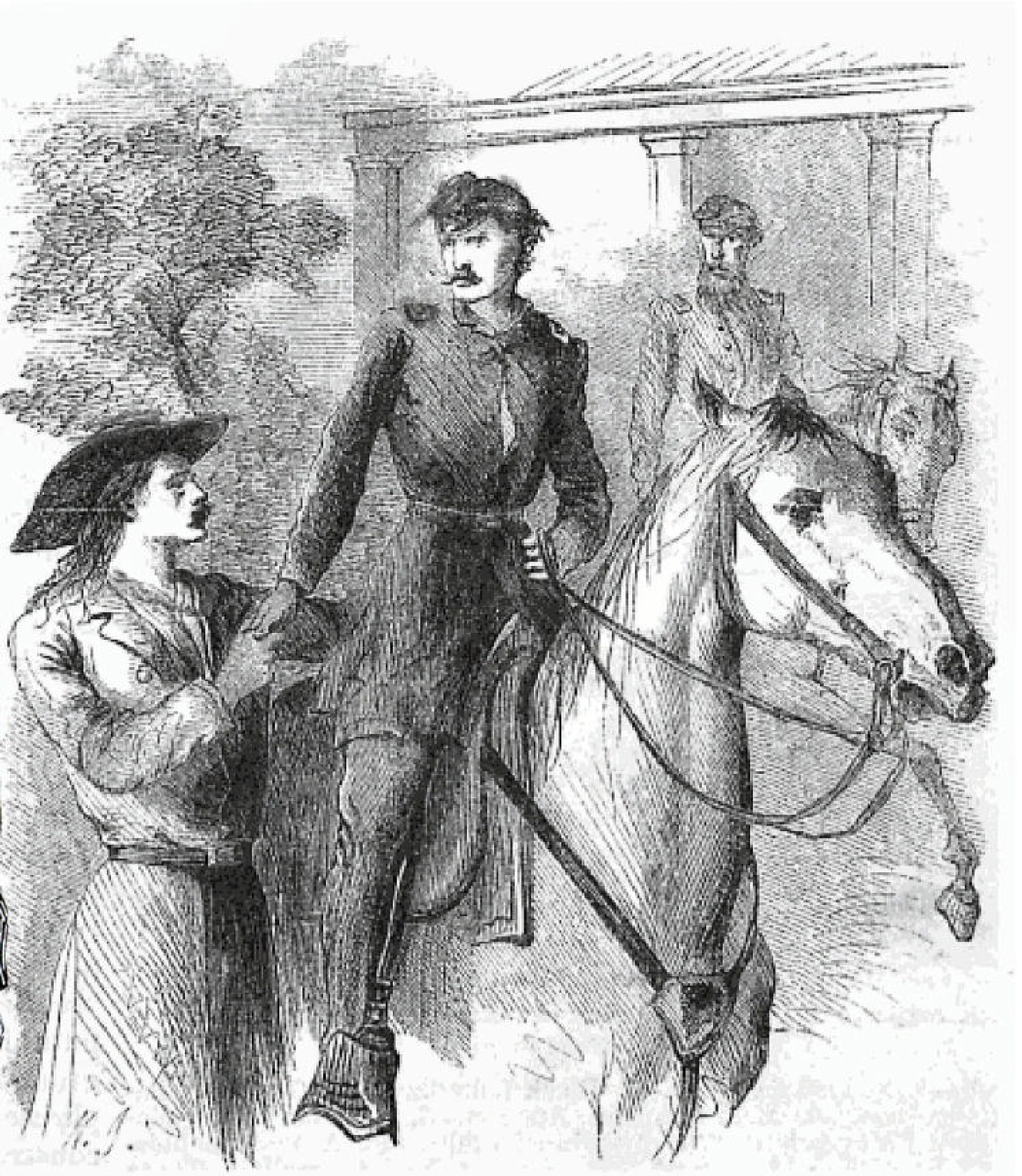
By the time Nichols showed up, Hickok had been arrested, tried for manslaughter and found innocent by a local jury. For Nichols, though, Tutt's killing was just the jumping-off point for a grander piece of myth-making, as he went about painting a glamorous portrait of Hickok.

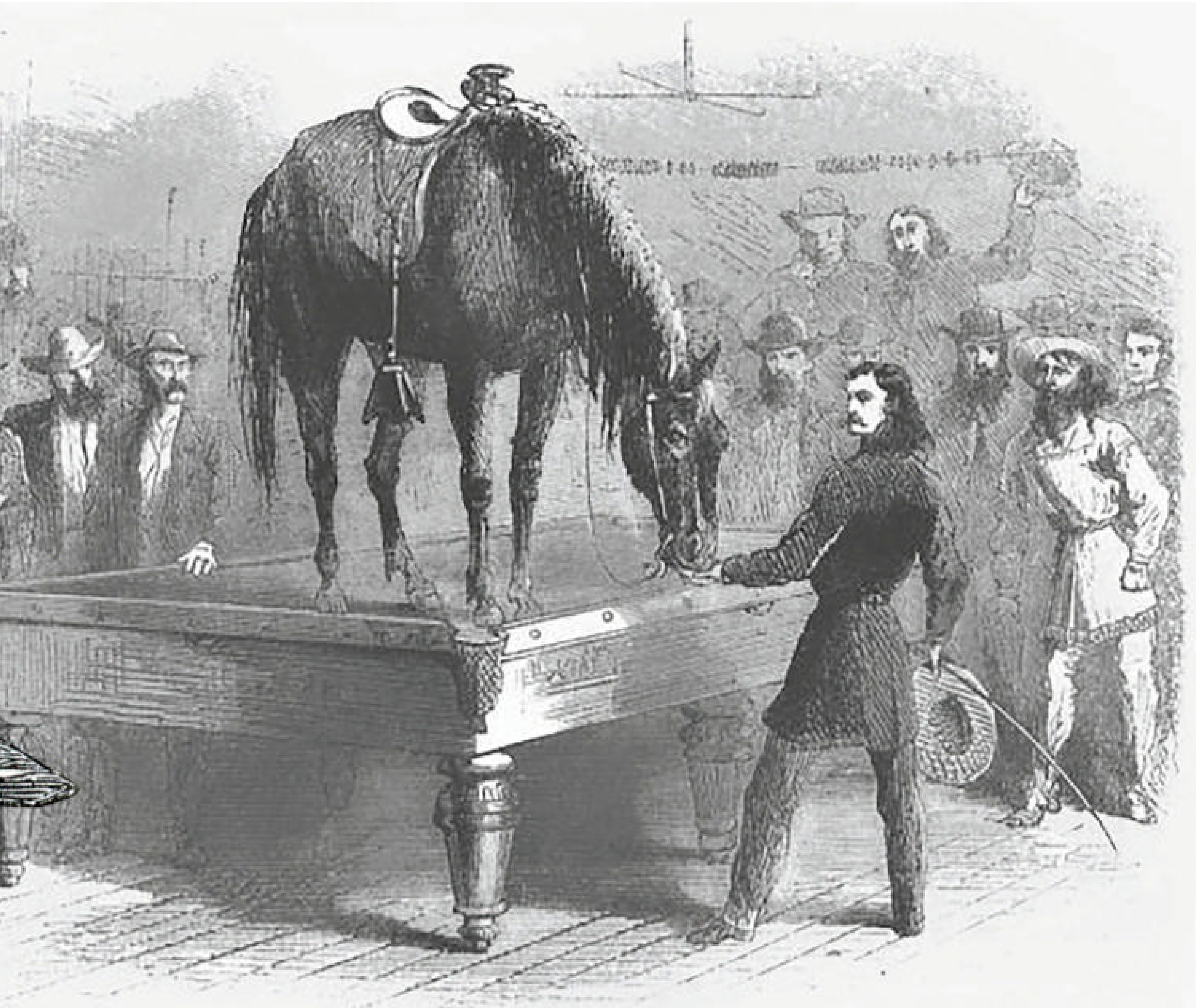
"As I looked at him I thought his the handsomest physique I had ever seen," Nichols wrote, noting that Hickok stood "six feet and an inch in his bright yellow moccasins." He described Hickok's "gentle face," finding no evidence of a "murderous propensity," and noted that his "small, round waist was girthed by a belt which held two of Colt's Navy revolvers." Beyond his remarkable appearance, exulted Nichols, Hickok rode "with a grace of motion seen only in the horsemen of the plains."

As a teller of tall tales, Nichols found a willing accomplice in "Wild Bill," who apparently regaled the writer with an enlivened version of his own life—Nichols noted in his article that Hickok had already killed 100 men. The story became a sensation when it appeared in print in February 1867, turning Hickok into the West's most famous man. Exaggerated accounts of his exploits would later appear in newspapers and dime novels with titles like *Wild Bill, The Indian Slayer: A Story of Forest and Prairie Life*.

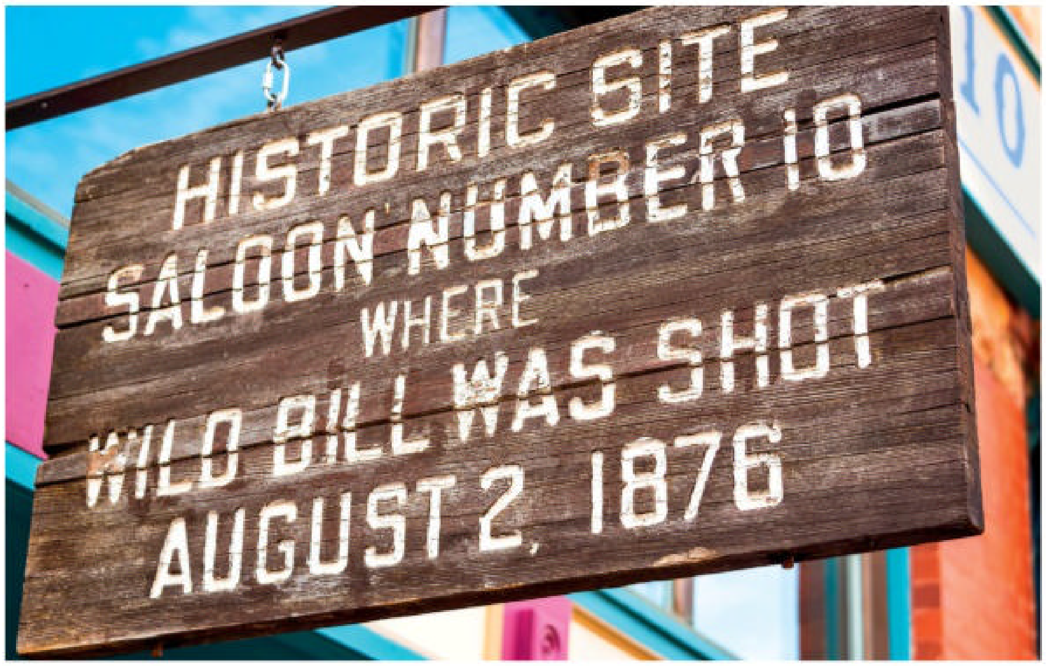
Nichols' article also set off a backlash, as a number of critics began pointing out the falsities in his account. But in the end it didn't







George Ward Nichols made Hickok a legend in a magazine article that sensationalized his exploits. Among his talents was training his horse, Black Nell, to climb up onto a billiard tale at his command (below right).



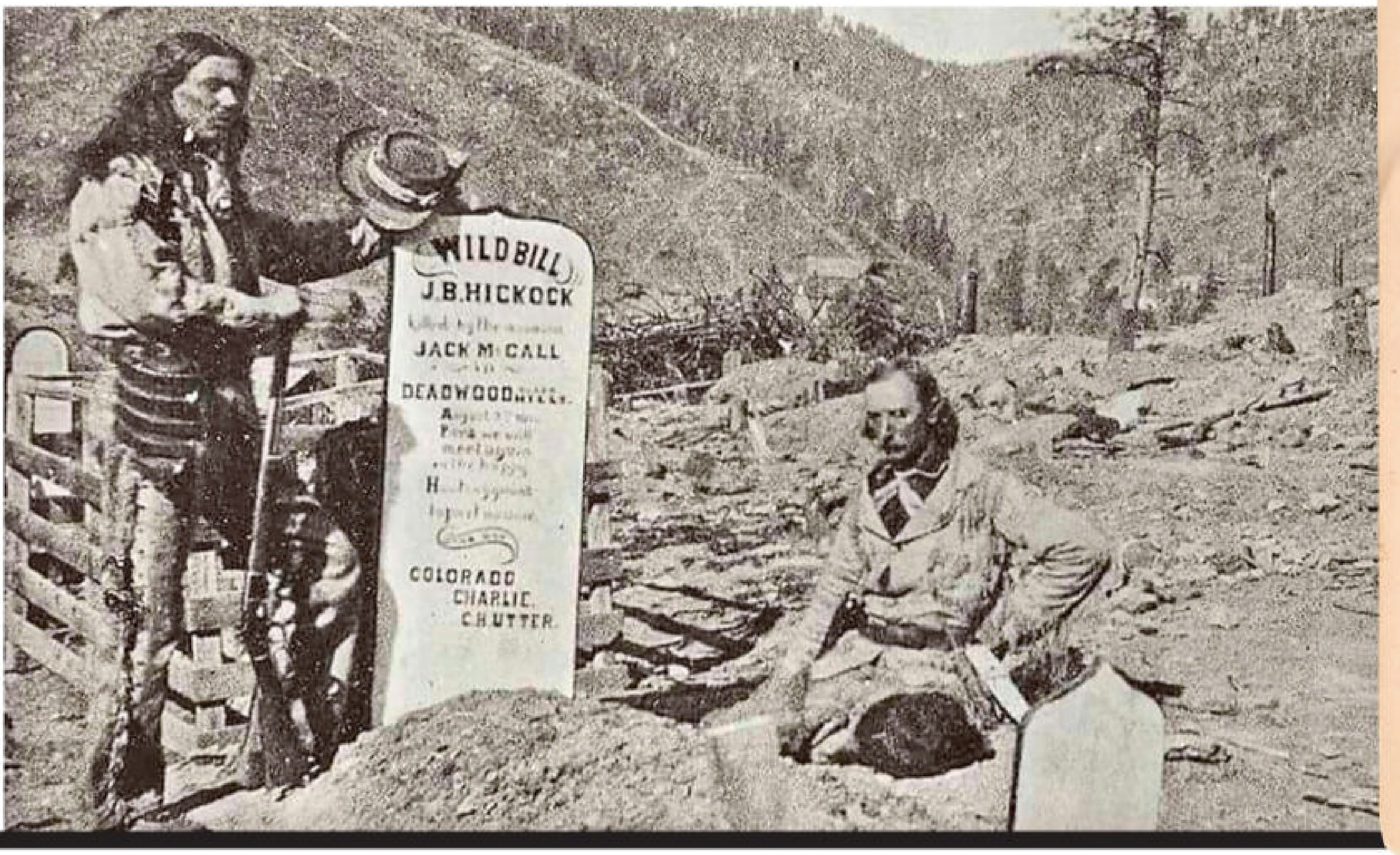
matter. "Wild Bill" Hickok would become what Tom Clavin, author of the bestselling biography *Wild Bill: The True Story of the American Frontier's First Gunfighter*, has called "arguably the most iconic" figure of the Wild West.

Final Chapter

For Hickok, his celebrity status opened the door to opportunity—he spent the following years working as a hunting guide, gambler and lawman in a number of Kansas towns. In April 1871 he was named marshal of Abilene, Kansas, succeeding lawman Tom "Bear River Smith," who'd been killed the previous year while serving an arrest warrant. But several months after taking the job, "Wild Bill" got into a dispute with saloon keeper Phil Coe—described by the town's mayor as a "vile" character who "sold whiskey and men's souls"—and ended up mortally wounding the man in a gunfight, along with a deputy who got in the way of one of Bill's bullets.

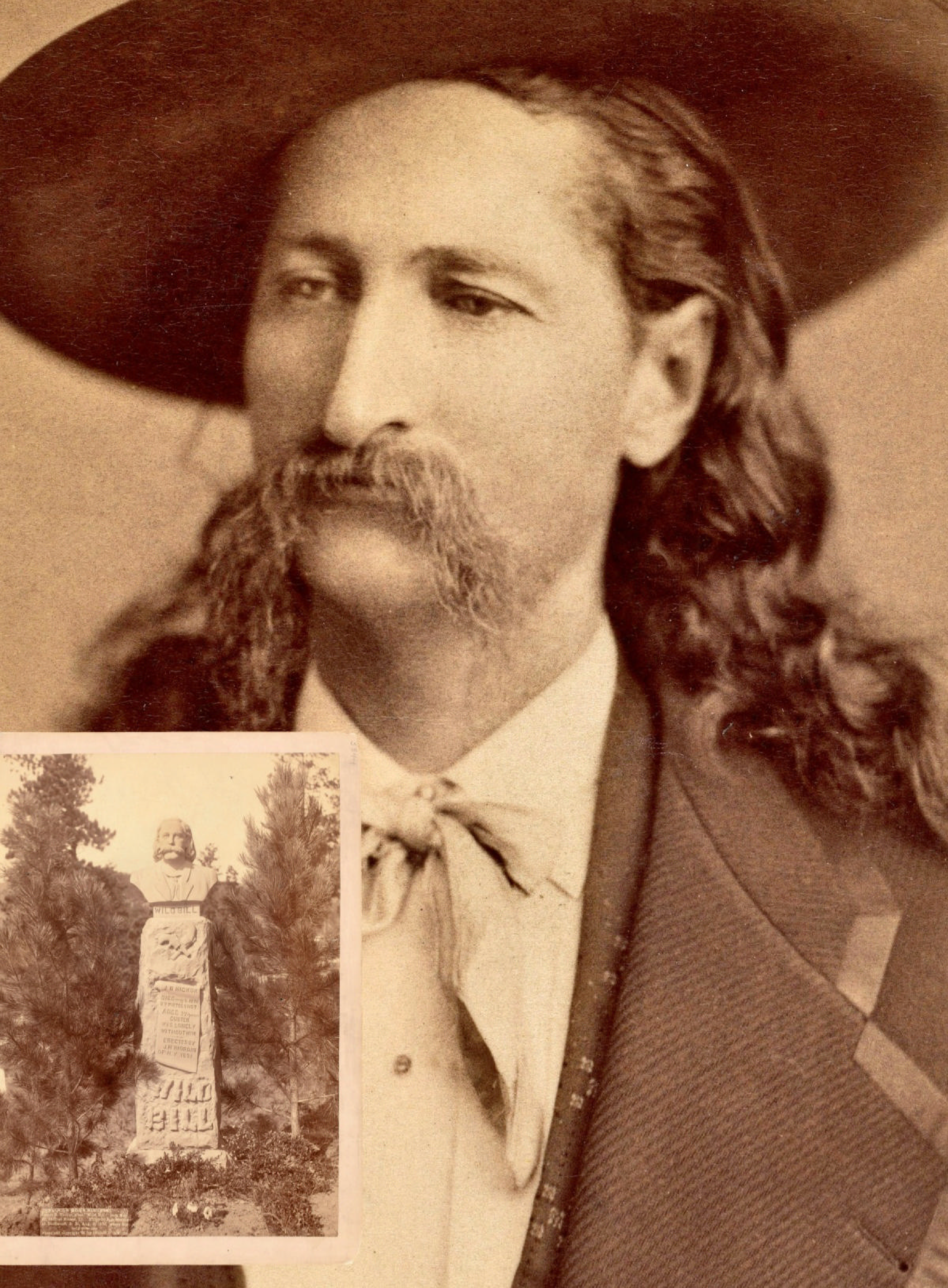
Haunted by the deputy's death and fired by the town, Hickok fell back to gambling and drinking. In 1873, Buffalo Bill Cody, whom Hickok met years earlier in Kansas, got him a job performing in a Wild West show. Hickok hated performing, though—he is said to have once shot out a spotlight aimed at him—and he later made his way to the newly opened goldfields of South Dakota Territory. In the years since he'd killed Davis Tutt, Hickok had learned that fame as a gunman came with a price. He was in the habit of sitting against walls so no one could get the drop on him—a wise idea that, for some reason, he neglected to act on while playing cards on Aug. 2, 1876, at the No. 10 Saloon in Deadwood, South Dakota. A young man named Jack McCall, described variously as a "drifter" and a "thug," entered the saloon and shot Hickok in the back of the head with a Colt revolver.

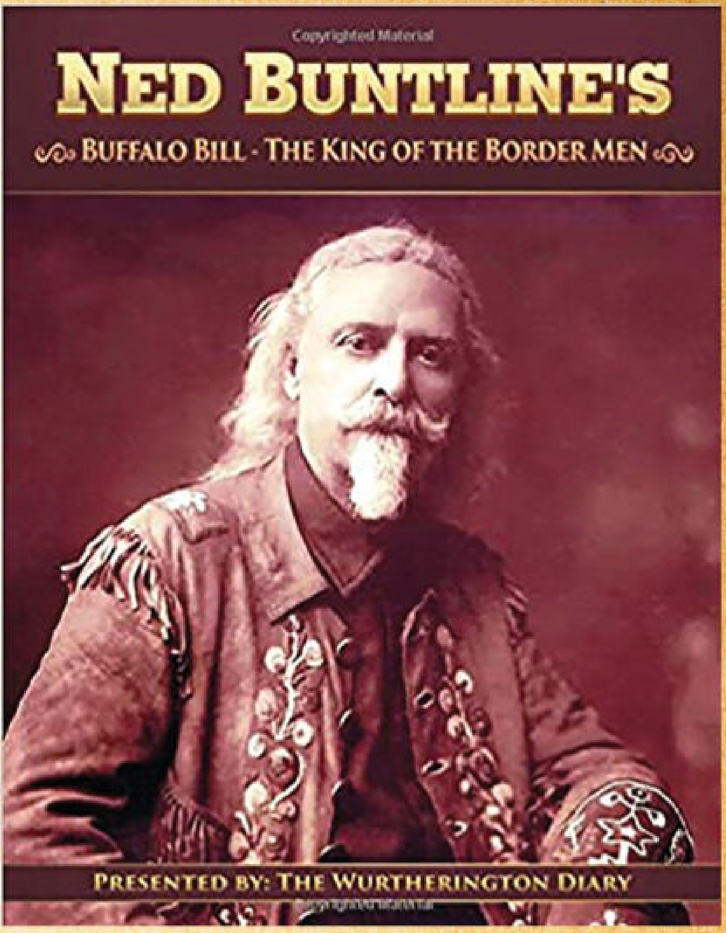
There has long been debate over why McCall murdered Hickok, though many historians point to McCall's drinking and recent bad luck at poker tables as the reason for the killing. He was later hanged, bringing to a close the legend of "Wild Bill."

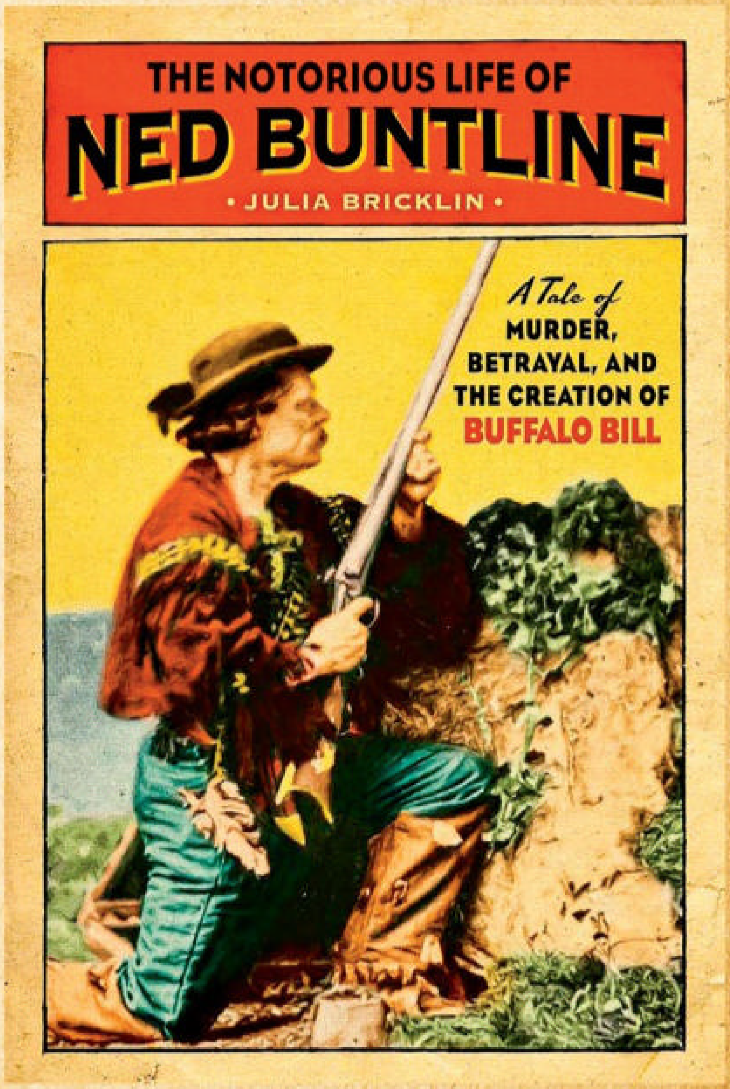


ABOVE Hickok's legendary life ended in a legendary murder in Deadwood, South Dakota.

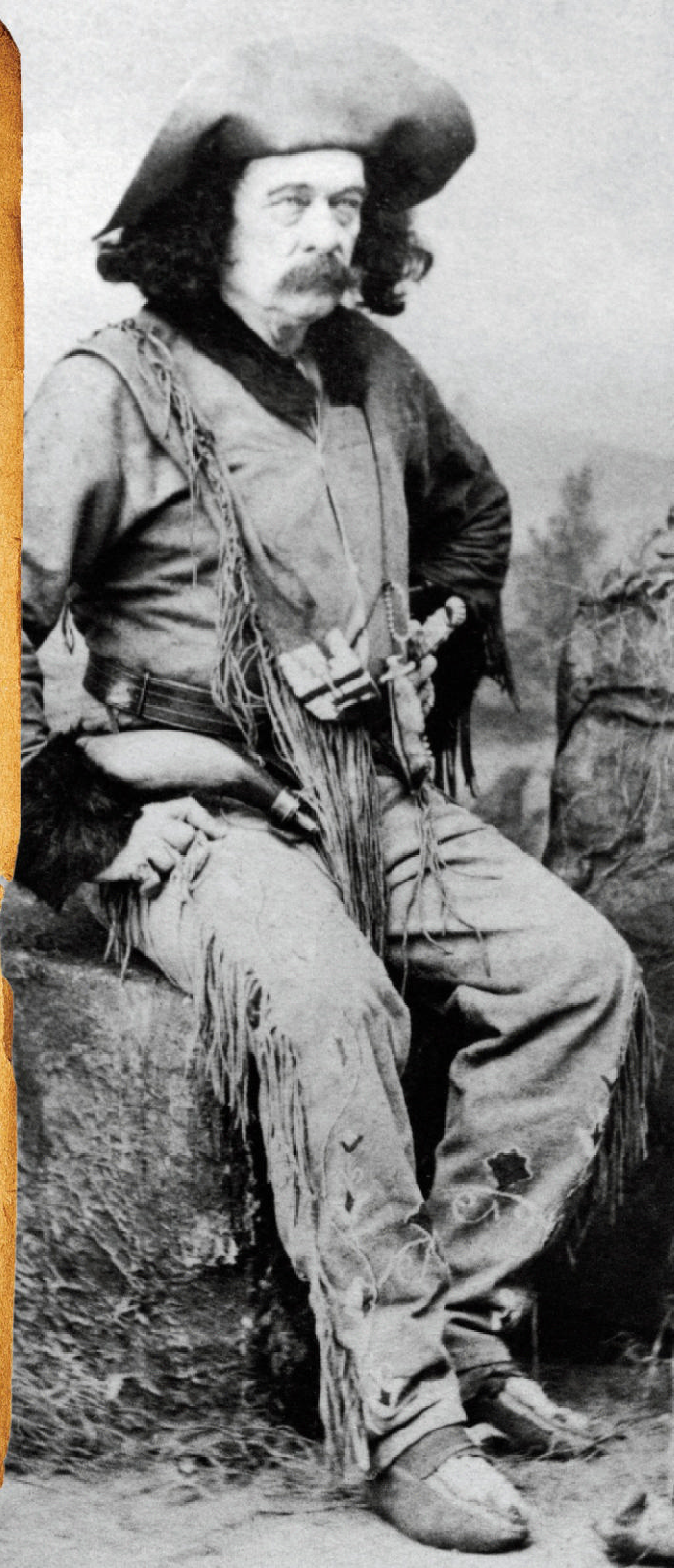
RIGHT Hickok's friend Charlie Utter (right, with his brother Steve) made a marker for his grave in Deadwood. A monument was later erected at the site. Opposite page: Hickok, circa 1873.


WILD BILL
J.B. HICKOK
CUSTER
WAS LONELY
WITHOUT HIM
ERECTED BY
J.H. RIORDAN
WILD BILL


Copyrighted Material
NED BUNTLINE'S
BUFFALO BILL - THE KING OF THE BORDER MEN
PRESENTED BY: THE WURTHERINGTON DIARY


THE NOTORIOUS LIFE OF
NED BUNTLINE
• JULIA BRICKLIN •
A Tale of
MURDER,
BETRAYAL, AND
THE CREATION OF
BUFFALO BILL

NED BUNTLINE
Dime novels by the prolific author turned Buffalo Bill Cody and others into national celebrities. Buntline (right), whose real name was Edward Zane Carroll Judson, was himself a notoriously larger-than-life figure.

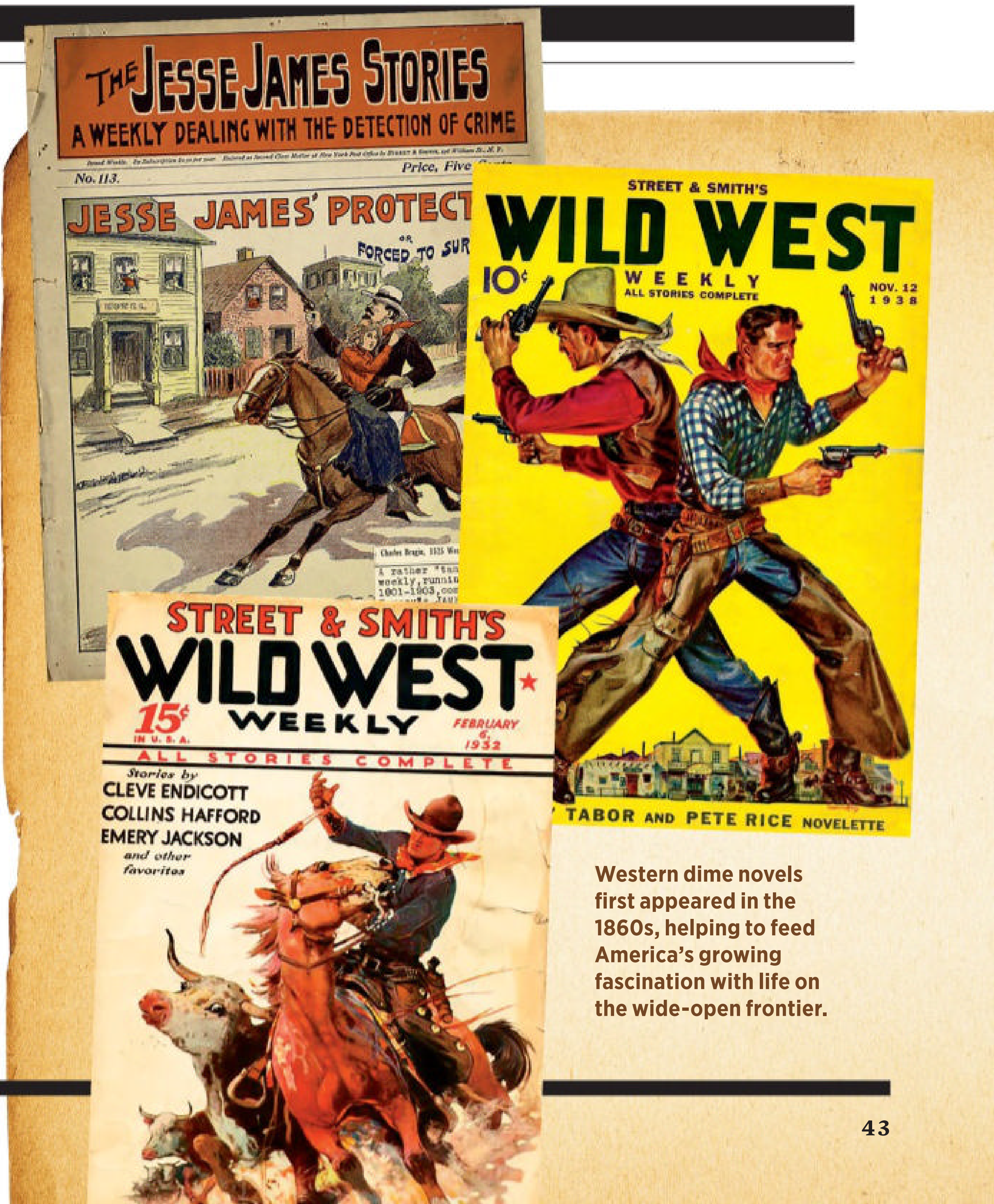


THE LEGENDS THAT WON THE WEST

EVEN AS THE HISTORY OF THE FRONTIER TOOK SHAPE, WRITERS IN THE EAST CREATED AN ALTERNATE REALITY IN HUGELY POPULAR DIME NOVELS THAT TURNED REAL-LIFE CHARACTERS LIKE BUFFALO BILL CODY AND KIT CARSON INTO HEROES.

AS MUCH AS ANYONE ELSE, Edward Zane Carroll Judson is responsible for creating the fabled territory we've come to know as the Wild West. Judson lived a preposterously eventful life—serving in the U.S. Navy, starting and bankrupting several newspapers, and doing prison time for instigating a gang riot in New York City. He was a Union sergeant during the Civil War but was reportedly dishonorably discharged for drunkenness. He later toured the country to lecture on temperance, between bouts of drinking, and managed to marry at least eight women, several of whom he never formally divorced, notes historian Julia Bricklin, author of *The Notorious Ned Buntline: A Tale of Murder, Betrayal, and the Creation of Buffalo Bill*.

What Judson is best known for, however, are the Western dime novels he wrote under the pseudonym Ned Buntline. He churned out at least 400 and possibly as many as 600 of the popular novels, which invariably featured steely heroes, contemptible


THE JESSE JAMES STORIES
A WEEKLY DEALING WITH THE DETECTION OF CRIME
No. 113.
Price, Five
JESSE JAMES' PROTECT
OR FORCED TO SUR
STREET & SMITH'S
WILD WEST
10¢
WEEKLY
ALL STORIES COMPLETE
NOV. 12 1938
TABOR AND PETE RICE NOVELETTE
STREET & SMITH'S
WILD WEST
15¢
IN U. S. A.
WEEKLY
FEBRUARY 6, 1932
ALL STORIES COMPLETE
Stories by
CLEVE ENDICOTT
COLLINS HAFFORD
EMERY JACKSON
and other favorites

Western dime novels first appeared in the 1860s, helping to feed America's growing fascination with life on the wide-open frontier.

outlaws, endangered damsels, "savage" Native Americans and gunfights galore. Most famously, Judson turned the real-life frontiersman named William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody into a larger-than-life fictional character, starting with the novel *Buffalo Bill, the King of the Border Men*, which, beginning in 1869, was serialized by a magazine in New York.

Judson, like other writers of Western dime novels, thrived by disregarding the lines between reality and fiction—the genre helped to make legends out of a number of actual frontier personalities, including Davy Crockett and Kit Carson. It's said that Judson originally wanted to cast Buffalo Bill as a sidekick to "Wild Bill" Hickok in his story, but ultimately found Cody to be more compelling. In any event, Cody became the star of book after book by Buntline and others. Buntline also authored a play featuring Buffalo Bill, called *The Scouts of the Prairie*. It debuted in Chicago in 1872, with the real Cody playing his fictional character, further blurring the line between Wild West fact and Wild West fiction.

The play in turn helped inspire the Wild West show—including the famous one launched by Buffalo Bill in 1883. Critic and historian Richard Slotkin has called those spectacles, which retold the stories of the West with performers enacting everything from Pony Express adventures to Indian wars, "the most important commercial vehicle for the fabrication and transmission of the Myth of the Frontier."

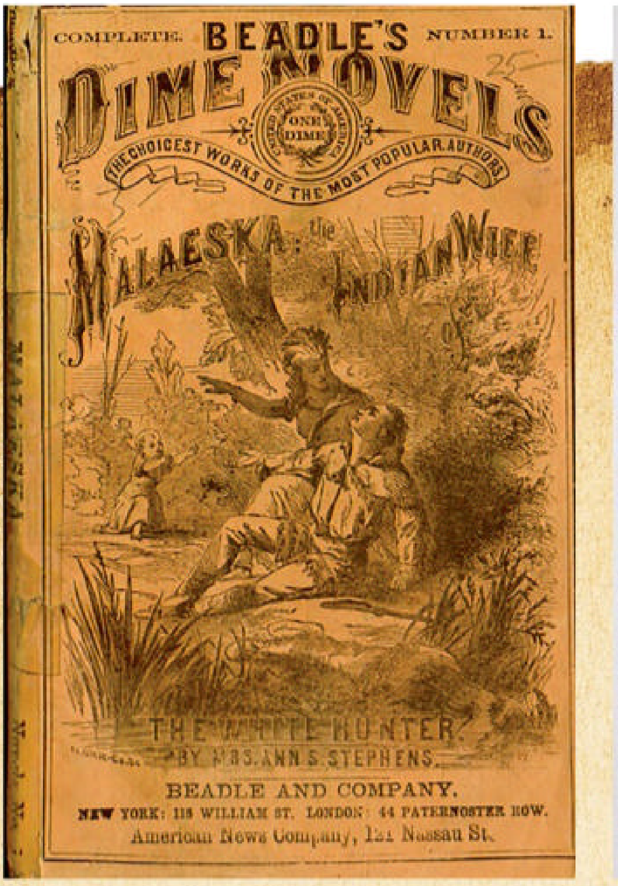
Entertaining the Masses

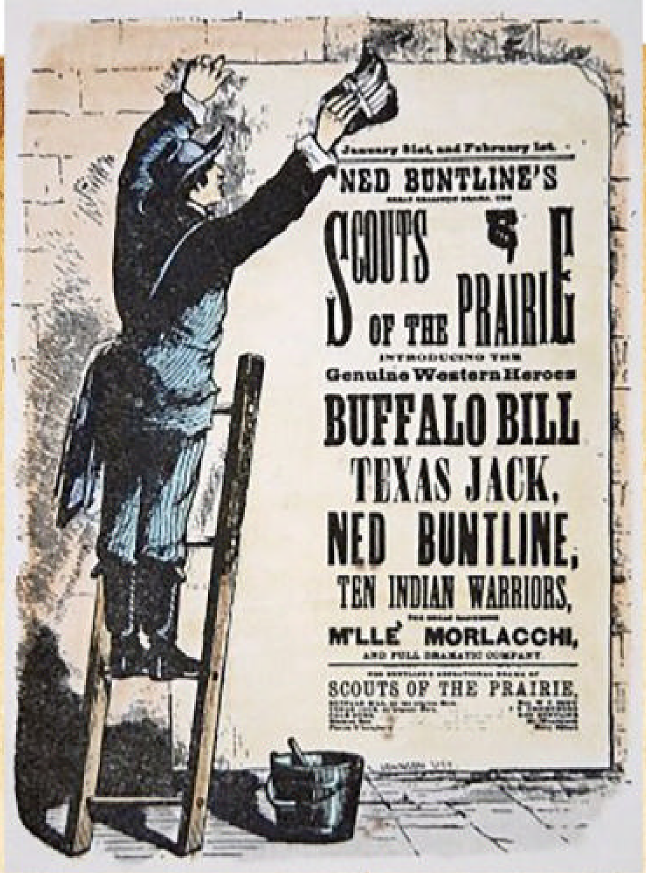
One of the first forms of mass culture in the U.S., the dime novel emerged in the 1860s, feeding Americans' growing fascination with the frontier. Two brothers, Irwin and Erastus Beadle, ushered in the publishing phenomenon, first printing 10-cent pamphlets and then entire novels under one cover, all at the same price. The innovation had such an impact that when Erastus died in 1895, the newspaper *The New York World* referred to him as a "revolutionist in the literary field."

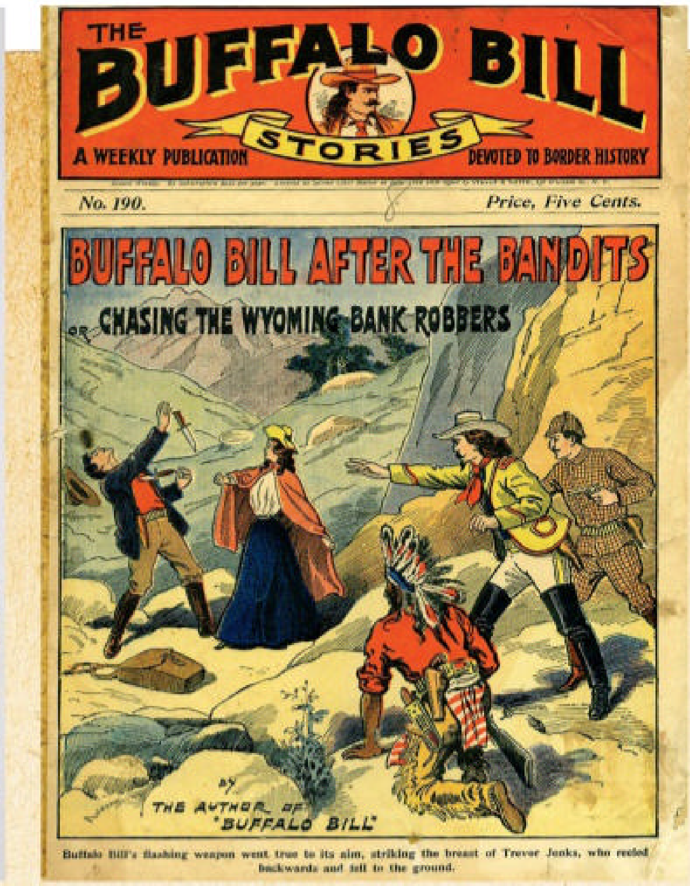
The Beadles released their first dime novel—*Malaeska: The Indian Wife of the White Hunter*—in 1860. Written by novelist and magazine editor Ann S. Stephens, one of the few women to pen Western dime novels, the tale of white hunters and "noble savages" was set in the Catskill Mountains of New York and evoked a wilderness that "trembled to the shock of the red man's tread." It sold 65,000 copies in a few months, and the Beadles were off and running.

Other publishers followed in their wake. In 1863, printer George Munro launched a line called "Munro's Ten Cent Novels." In 1867, publisher Robert DeWitt released the first

Dime novels may not have won any literary awards, but they became popular with readers of all ages from all walks of life by offering up what one writer described as "a thrill per page."


COMPLETE. BEADLE'S NUMBER 1.
DIME NOVELS
ONE DIME
THE CHOICEST WORKS OF THE MOST POPULAR AUTHORS
MALAESKA; THE INDIAN WIFE
OF THE WHITE HUNTER.
BY MRS. ANN S. STEPHENS.
BEADLE AND COMPANY.
NEW YORK: 118 WILLIAM ST. LONDON: 44 PATERNOSTER ROW.
American News Company, 121 Nassau St.


NED BUNTLINE'S
SCOUTS OF THE PRAIRIE
INTRODUCING THE
Genuine Western Heroes
BUFFALO BILL
TEXAS JACK,
NED BUNTLINE,
TEN INDIAN WARRIORS,
M'LLE MORLACCHI,
AND FULL DRAMATIC COMPANY
SCOUTS OF THE PRAIRIE.


THE BUFFALO BILL STORIES
A WEEKLY PUBLICATION
DEVOTED TO BORDER HISTORY
No. 190.
Price, Five Cents.
BUFFALO BILL AFTER THE BANDITS
OR CHASING THE WYOMING BANK ROBBERS
BY THE AUTHOR OF "BUFFALO BILL"
Buffalo Bill's flashing weapon went true to its aim, striking the breast of Trevor Jenks, who reeled backwards and fell to the ground.

of the 1,118 dime novels he would eventually print. Literary purists may have dismissed the novels as a waste of ink, but they were popular with readers at every level of society, from young boys and working men to businessmen and politicians, notes historian Daryl Jones in his book *The Dime Novel Western*.

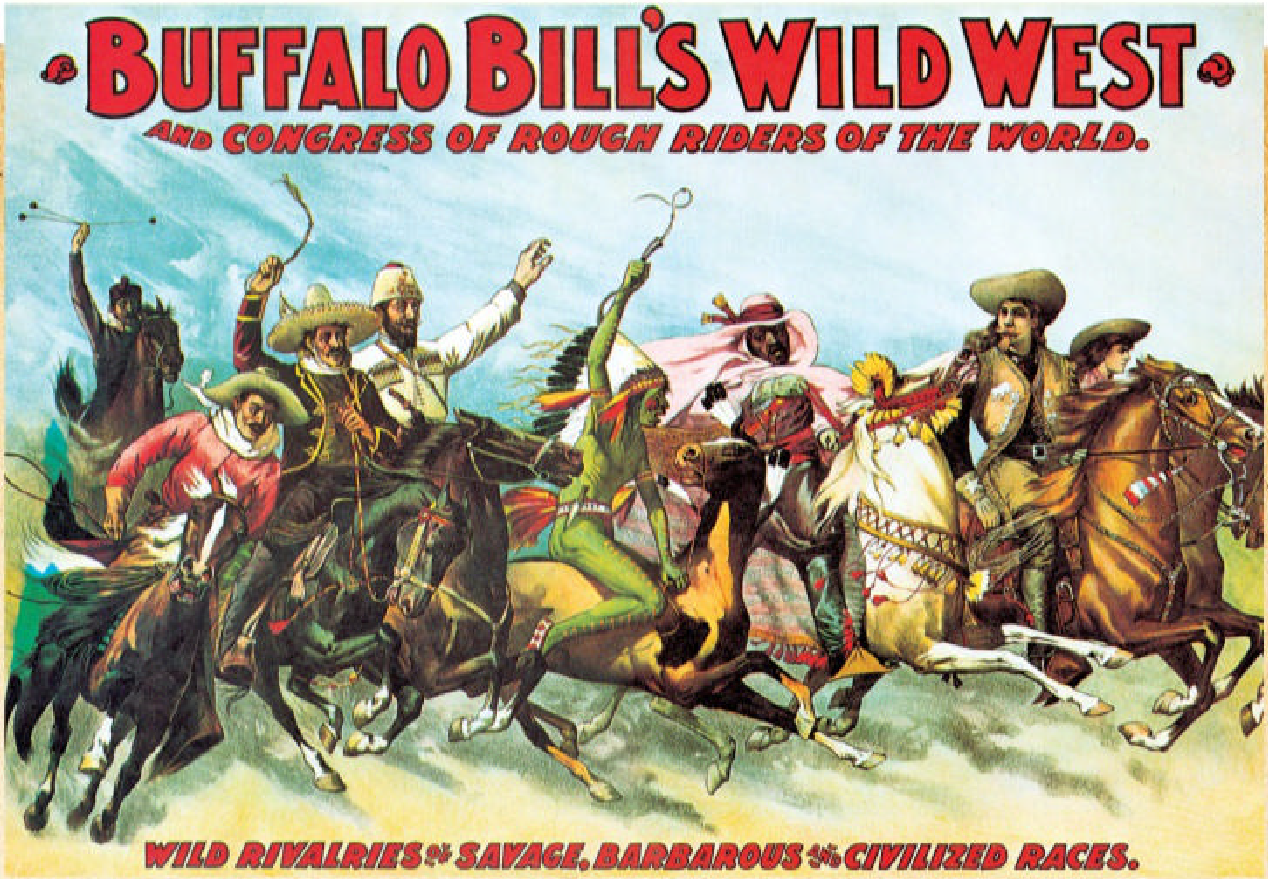
Naturalness and Individuality

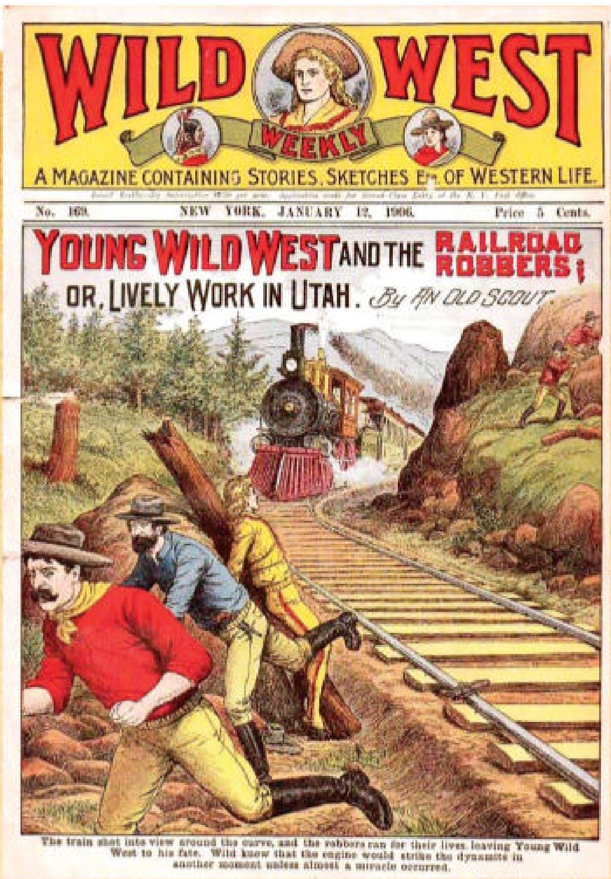
Finely attuned to the tastes of their audience, dime novel authors like Buntline, Edward S. Ellis, Prentiss Ingraham and Edward L. Wheeler had an uncanny ability to transport readers beyond the confines of their everyday lives in crowded Eastern cities. "For all these, hungry for something to take them out of themselves, the dime novel provides a thrill per page," explained newspaper editor and dime novel writer Eugene T. Sawyer. The novels, points out Jones, also "responded to the anxieties and aspirations of the age," including a suspicion about the ill effects of civilization. "Manliness and womanliness among the readers were cultivated by these little books," noted a critic in 1907.

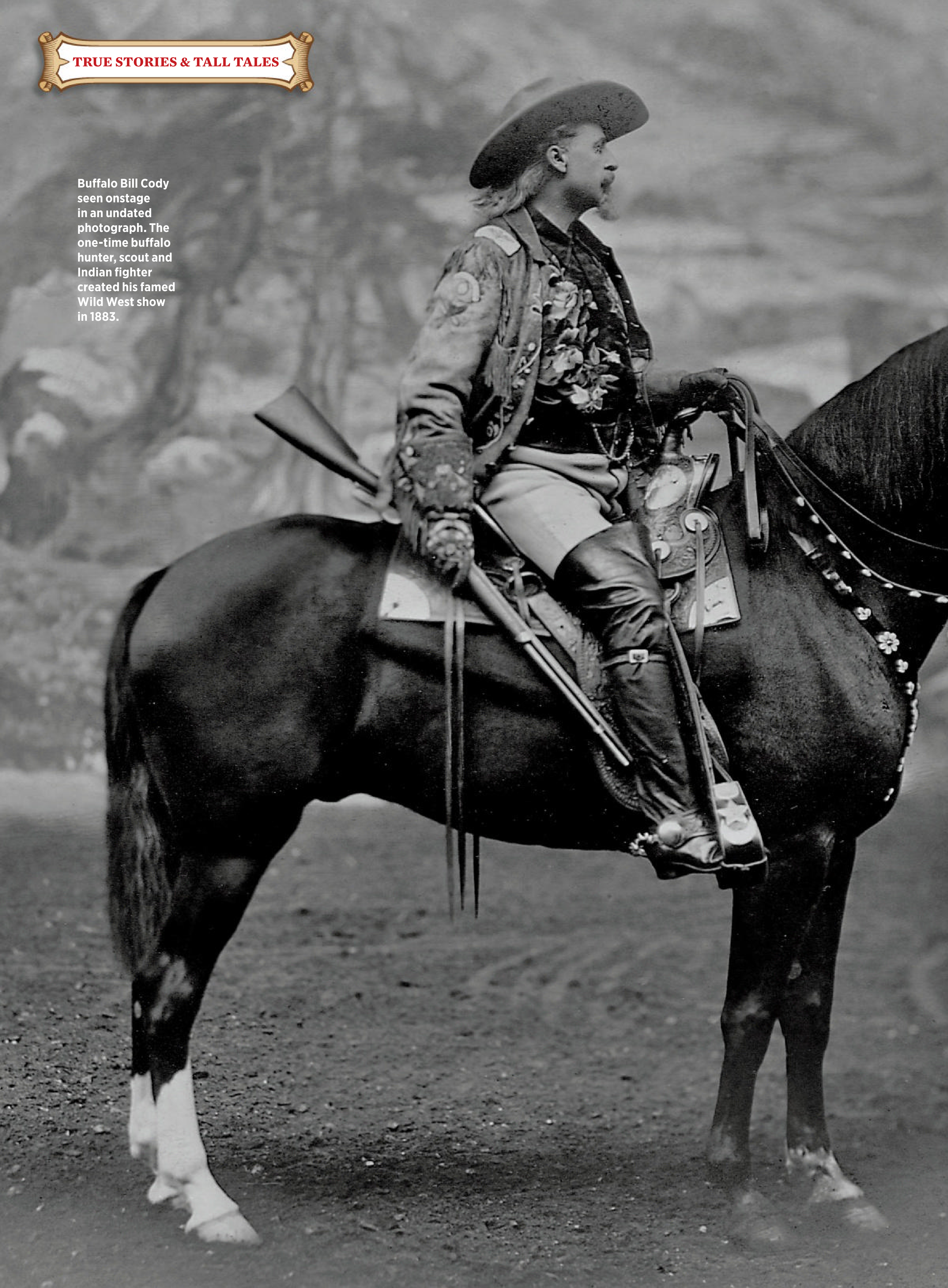
The setting played a central role in the novels. The West was seen as a place of "naturalness, simpleness and individuality," explains Jones, in contrast to the artificiality and conformity of society in the East. The heroes of the novels were fiercely independent and always triumphant. Some, like Buffalo Bill, were noble, although many of the heroes were motivated by "Indian hatred." Over time, notes Jones, heroes became more refined and lived in greater harmony with Native Americans.

> **"To a man whose life is...bounded by the four dirty walls of a counting house, the dime novel is a revelation and a delight."**
>
> ***Dime novelist Eugene T. Sawyer***

The era of the Western dime novels, like the era of the Wild West, was relatively short—by the early 1900s, as the frontier disappeared, readers were turning to other fare, including pulp fiction magazines. But the exciting Western world created by Ned Buntline and others would live on in a burgeoning new art form: the movies.


BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST
AND CONGRESS OF ROUGH RIDERS OF THE WORLD.
WILD RIVALRIES OF SAVAGE, BARBAROUS AND CIVILIZED RACES.


WILD WEST WEEKLY
A MAGAZINE CONTAINING STORIES, SKETCHES Etc. OF WESTERN LIFE.
No. 169.
NEW YORK, JANUARY 12, 1906.
Price 5 Cents.
YOUNG WILD WEST AND THE RAILROAD ROBBERS;
OR, LIVELY WORK IN UTAH. By AN OLD SCOUT.
The train shot into view around the curve, and the robbers ran for their lives, leaving Young Wild West to his fate. Wild knew that the engine would strike the dynamite in another moment unless almost a miracle occurred.

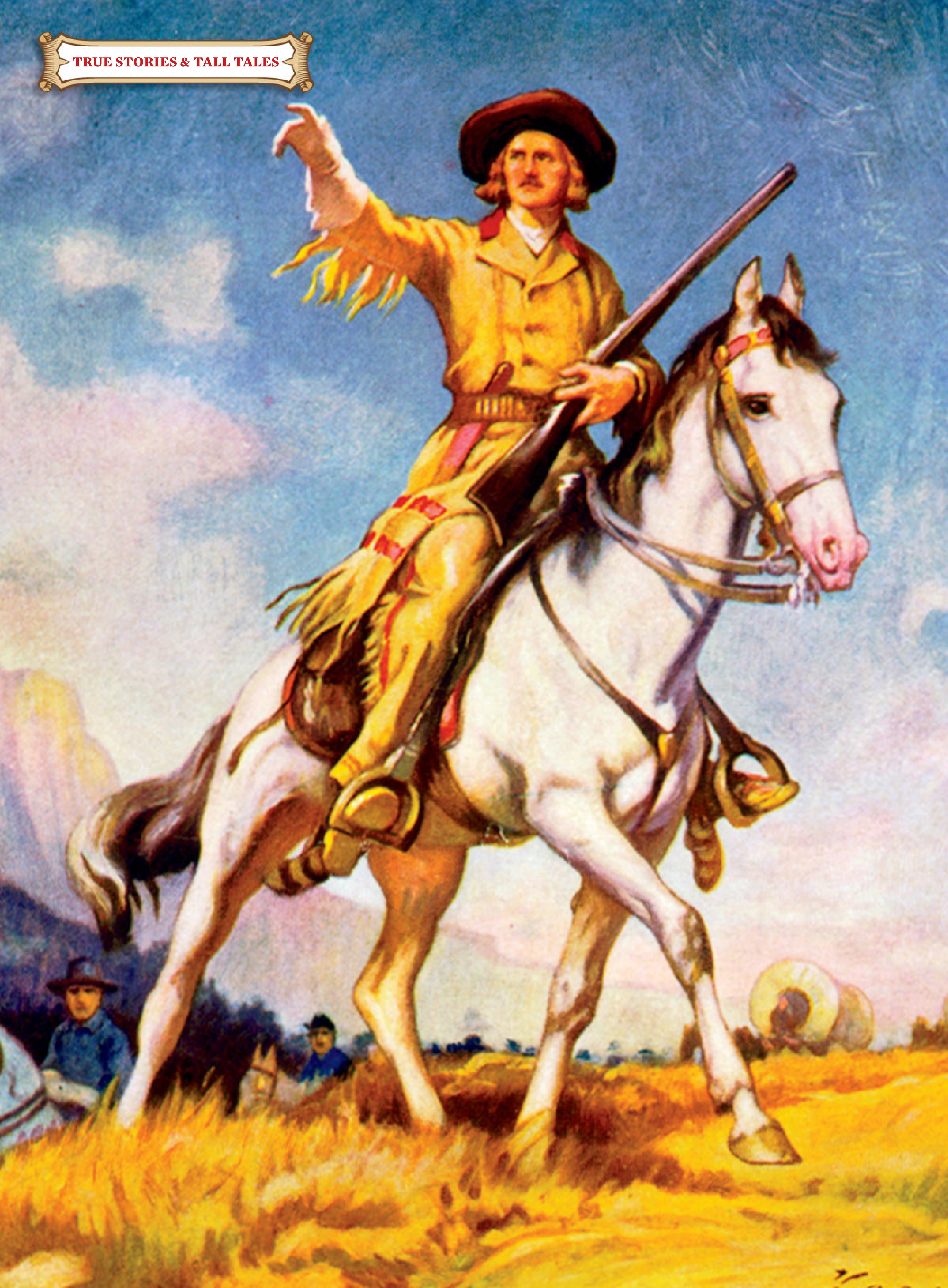


Buffalo Bill Cody seen onstage in an undated photograph. The one-time buffalo hunter, scout and Indian fighter created his famed Wild West show in 1883.

WILD BUNCH

10 ICONS OF AN EPIC AGE

HEROES AND VILLAINS, FAMED AND NOTORIOUS, THEIR EXPLOITS HAVE ENDURED AS BOTH HISTORY AND MYTH.



KIT CARSON

IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF MAY 23, 1868, Christopher Houston Carson—more famously, Kit Carson—succumbed to an aneurysm at Fort Lyon, in southern Colorado Territory. According to one account, his final words, to a U.S. Army surgeon, were, "Doctor, compadre, adios." The flag at the fort was lowered to half staff, befitting a man who had earned fame as a frontiersman, Indian fighter, army officer and hero of dime novels that exaggerated his already remarkable exploits—deeds that helped shape the westward expansion of America and the future of the country.

For all that, and a reputation for fearlessness, historians have noted that the unassuming Carson was never comfortable with his celebrity. Nor was he a particularly imposing physical presence. "Kit Carson was five feet five and one half-inches tall, weighed about 140 pounds, of nervy, iron temperament, squarely built, slightly bow-legged, and those members apparently too short for his body," noted one friend. But, he added, Carson's head—"well shaped, with yellow straight hair, worn long, falling on his shoulders"—made up for other imperfections. His expression was generally mild, the friend noted, but his blue eyes "could become terrible under some circumstances, and like the warning of the rattlesnake."

Life of Adventure

Carson was born on Christmas Eve 1809, in Madison County, Kentucky. His family later moved to Missouri, where he apprenticed as a blacksmith. But he ran away in 1826, lured by notions about the western frontier, and became a fur trapper in the Rocky Mountains and a wilderness guide who made his way to California in the 1830s. In 1836 he fought a duel on horseback with another trapper, Joseph Chouinard, over an Arapaho woman they both wanted to marry. Carson won, but his new wife died soon thereafter. He remarried, first to a Cheyenne woman (who, according to historians, left him) and then to Josefa Jaramillo, daughter of a wealthy family in Taos, New Mexico.

In the 1840s, Carson guided explorer John C. Frémont's expeditions throughout the West, and Frémont's flattering portrayal of Carson in published accounts of the journeys made the mountain man famous. During the Mexican-American War of the late 1840s, Carson earned more fame as a scout and fighter. In the 1850s he became the Indian agent for New Mexico, and in 1861, as the Civil War broke out, he became a lieutenant colonel with Union forces stationed in New Mexico.

Long Walk

While he saw action in New Mexico during the war, he is better known now for a campaign against Native Americans during that period. In 1863, the U.S. army moved to confine Navajo bands in the Southwest to reservations; when they refused, Carson, although known for his generally mild treatment of Native Americans, began a scorched-earth campaign to drive them into submission, burning crops and destroying homes and livestock. In 1864 he marched more than 8,000 Navajos across New Mexico to the Bosque Redondo Reservation, over 300 miles from their homes. Historians still debate his role in the notorious episode.

Legend

By the end of the war, Carson was a brevetted brigadier general, but his health was failing. He left the army in 1867. In 1868, his wife, Josefa, gave birth to their seventh child, but died shortly afterward; Carson died a month later. His name lives on—in books, including a memoir he dictated to several co-authors, and in movies like 1940's *Kit Carson*—as a symbol of America's western frontier.

ABOVE Trapper, scout and Indian agent Kit Carson posed for this portrait in 1860.

LEFT This heroic portrait of Carson appeared in the magazine *The Youth's Companion* circa 1922.

DOC HOLLIDAY

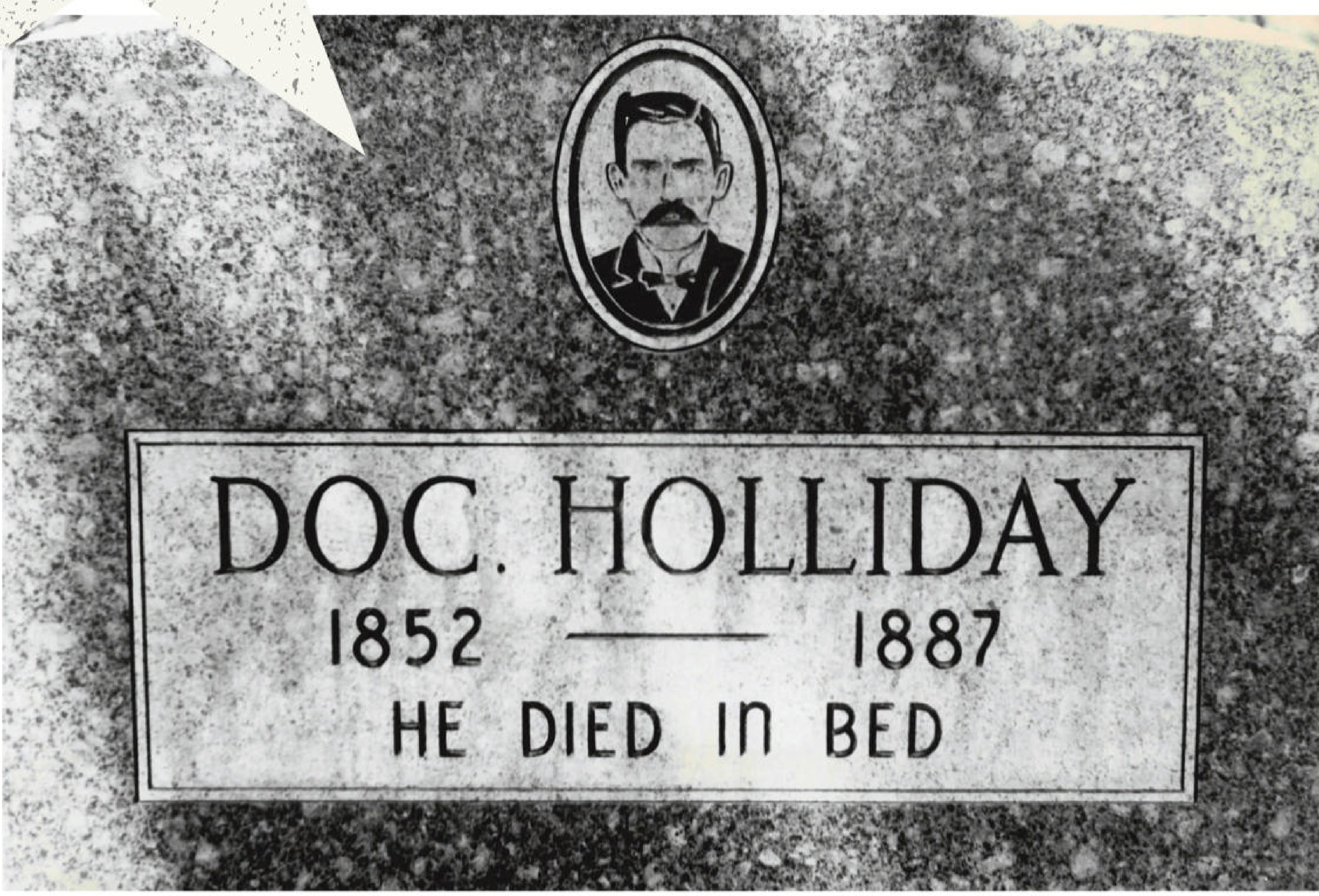
RIGHT History as legend: Doc Holliday's memorial stone in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

BELOW Gunman Doc Holliday died in a Glenwood Springs sanitarium of tuberculosis (and hard living).

Like many Wild West icons, John Henry Holliday was a gunslinger and gambler. Unlike others, he was also a dentist, with an education that included mathematics, history, rhetoric and Latin. His friend Wyatt Earp is said to have called Holliday "the nerviest, fastest, deadliest man with a six-gun I ever saw," even though, he added, Holliday could put away 3 quarts of whiskey a day. "It is doubtful that even Doc Holliday drank 3 quarts of whiskey a day, and he didn't kill many men with his six-gun," Western historian Ben Traywick has noted, setting aside fanciful accounts of Holliday's lethality, including one claim that he fought more than 30 duels to the death and another that he killed 16 men. But the fact remains that Holliday was a tough character in a world filled with tough and memorable characters.

Gambling and Guns

Holliday was born in Griffin, Georgia, in 1851, to Henry Holliday, a veteran of the Mexican-American War, and Alice Holliday. His mother died of tuberculosis in 1866, and in 1870 he left for Philadelphia, where, at age 20, he received his doctor of dental surgery degree from the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery. He joined a dental practice in Atlanta but soon discovered that he had tuberculosis, which prompted him to move



to the dryer climes of the West. He launched a dental business in Dallas, but it fell into decline, in part because of his coughing fits and in part because he preferred to spend his time at the poker tables.

Gambling in the West was a dangerous way to make a living, and Holliday apparently prepared himself by learning to shoot and use knives. In 1875 he was arrested after trading fire with a Dallas saloon keeper, and he later left Texas for Denver.

Earp Friendship

It was in Fort Griffin, Texas, that Holliday struck up two significant relationships. While dealing cards at a saloon, he met Mary Katherine “Big Nose Kate” Horony, a dance hall girl and occasional prostitute who would become his lover and follow him across the West. In 1877 he also met Wyatt Earp, who, while working as a deputy U.S. marshal, had come to Fort Griffin looking for outlaw “Dirty” Dave Rudabaugh.

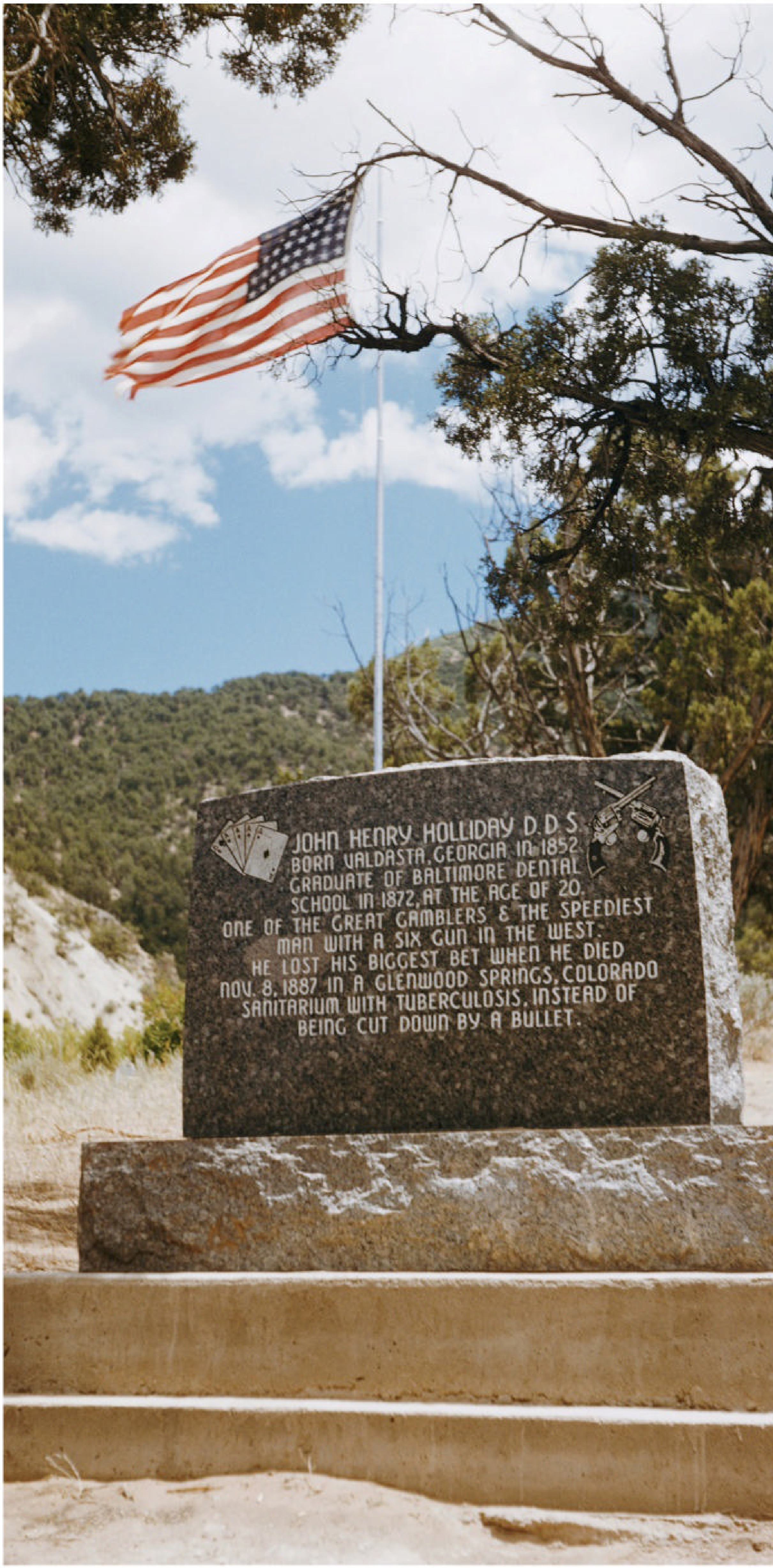
Holliday moved on—he had a dentistry business in Dodge City, Kansas, in 1878—as stories about his deadly ways grew. By 1879 he and Horony were in Las Vegas, New Mexico, where, according to disputed accounts, he killed a man named Mike Gordon after Gordon, rejected by a dance hall girl, began firing randomly at a saloon Holliday had a share in.

The following year, Holliday joined his old friend Earp in Tombstone, Arizona, where, on Oct. 26, 1881, he famously took part in the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. He also took part in the blood-soaked vendetta Earp launched following the assassination of his brother Morgan in March 1882.

Legend

It wasn’t a bullet that put an end to Holliday’s gaudy career, but his hard living and his tuberculosis. In May 1887, he retired to a Colorado health resort, and there he died, on Nov. 8, 1887, after downing a last glass of whiskey and saying, “This is funny.”

How many men did Doc Holliday actually gun down? Historians generally agree that he killed from one to three men. Historian Traywick puts the number of dead at two—not counting eight others who survived being shot by the Wild West’s deadliest dentist.


JOHN HENRY HOLLIDAY D.D.S.
BORN VALDASTA, GEORGIA IN 1852
GRADUATE OF BALTIMORE DENTAL
SCHOOL IN 1872, AT THE AGE OF 20.
ONE OF THE GREAT GAMBLERS & THE SPEEDIEST
MAN WITH A SIX GUN IN THE WEST.
HE LOST HIS BIGGEST BET WHEN HE DIED
NOV. 8, 1887 IN A GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO
SANITARIUM WITH TUBERCULOSIS, INSTEAD OF
BEING CUT DOWN BY A BULLET.

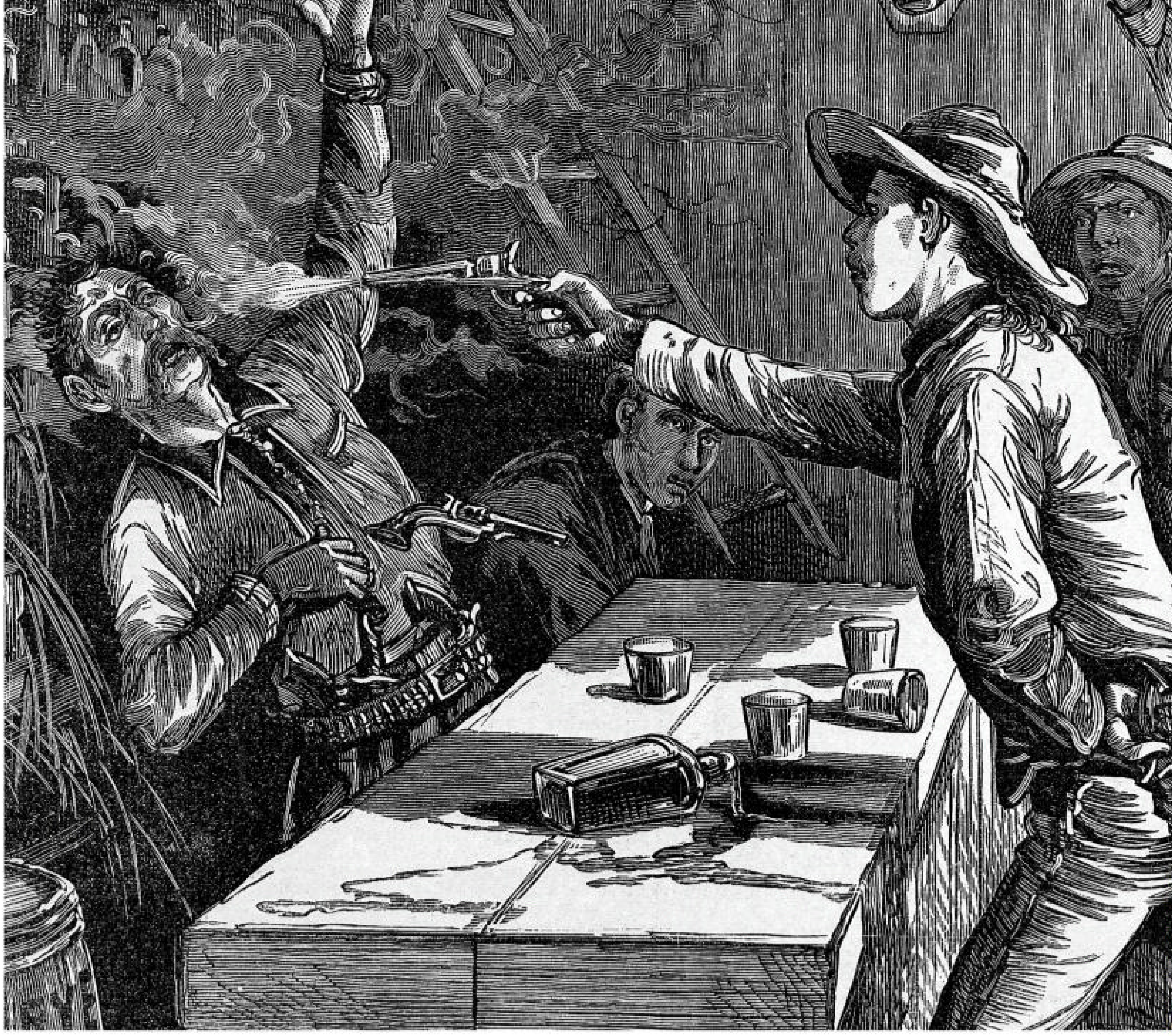
JESSE JAMES

HE WAS JUST A TEENAGER IN 1864, when he rode off from his family's farm in Clay County, Missouri, to join with Confederate guerrilla fighters known as bushwhackers during the Civil War. But for Jesse James, the war didn't end with the South's defeat. When he and his older brother, Frank, later launched a campaign of crime, they believed they were striking out against enemies of the secessionist cause. At least they thought so at first. It was in 1869 that Jesse and Frank pulled off the robbery that made them famous—a bank job in Gallatin, Missouri, during which Jesse shot the cashier, mistakenly believing him to be the man who had killed Confederate guerrilla leader "Bloody Bill" Anderson during the war. The James brothers later joined with outlaw Cole Younger and his brothers John, Jim, and Bob to form the James-Younger Gang, which earned notoriety by robbing banks and stagecoaches across the country. On July 23, 1871, the gang made news by robbing a train near Adair, Iowa, while wearing Ku Klux Klan masks.

Legend

In 1874, James married his cousin Zee, and the pair had two children. Then, in 1876, the James-Younger Gang attempted a raid on the First National Bank of Northfield, Minnesota. Angry townspeople fought back, and when the smoke cleared only the James brothers had escaped. They went on the run, surfacing in Tennessee. While Frank seemed to settle down, Jesse recruited a violent new gang whose robberies over the next few years had nothing to do with the Confederate cause.

In 1881 Jesse was with his family in St. Joseph, Missouri, planning a bank job with brothers Charles and Robert Ford, former associates who had moved into his home. His trust in the Fords proved to be a mistake. Robert had conspired with Missouri's governor to hunt down James for a $10,000 reward—and on April 3, 1882, he put a bullet in the back of the famous outlaw's head.



BILLY THE KID

BILLY THE KID ONCE REPORTEDLY claimed to have killed 21 men—"one for every year of my life"—although the actual figure is uncertain. The authentic life of Billy the Kid is as much mystery and mythology as truth.

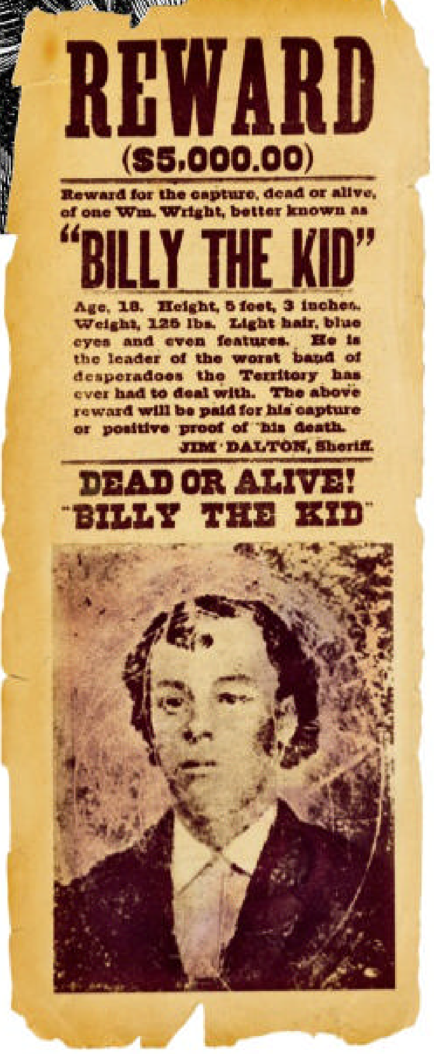
His real name was Henry McCarty, and he was born in a New York slum in 1859. His family ended up in New Mexico Territory, ultimately settling in Silver City, where his mother died of tuberculosis. At age 15 or 16 he was arrested after robbing a Chinese laundry, but he escaped from jail and made his way to Arizona using his stepfather's name.

Kid Antrim, as he was known because of his slight stature—he stood just 5 feet, 3 inches tall and weighed about 125 pounds—killed his first man on Aug. 17, 1877, at the Camp Grant army post in Arizona. A burly blacksmith named Francis "Windy" Cahill had bullied Billy during a poker game and then thrown him to the ground. Billy shot, and by the time Cahill died the next day, Kid Antrim was headed back to New Mexico.

There, he found work with cattle baron John Henry Tunstall, who seems to have treated the young man—now calling himself William Bonney—like a son. Tunstall was struggling with other ranchers over control of the beef business in the area, and when he was murdered, Billy became involved in the Lincoln County War, a bloody fight between rival factions that went on for several years.

Legend

On Aug. 1, 1878, Billy and others gunned down a local lawman, William Brady, who favored their enemies in the war. The murder would ultimately put Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett on the Kid's trail. On the run for two years, Billy was eventually captured and tried for Brady's murder, but he managed another escape. Garrett eventually tracked down and killed William Bonney on July 14, 1881, but Billy the Kid's fame was just beginning: Within a year, there were eight novels about him in bookstores—along with Pat Garrett's own biography of Billy.



REWARD
($5,000.00)

Reward for the capture, dead or alive, of one Wm. Wright, better known as

"BILLY THE KID"

Age, 18. Height, 5 feet, 3 inches. Weight, 125 lbs. Light hair, blue eyes and even features. He is the leader of the worst band of desperadoes the Territory has ever had to deal with. The above reward will be paid for his capture or positive proof of his death.

JIM DALTON, Sheriff.

DEAD OR ALIVE!
"BILLY THE KID"

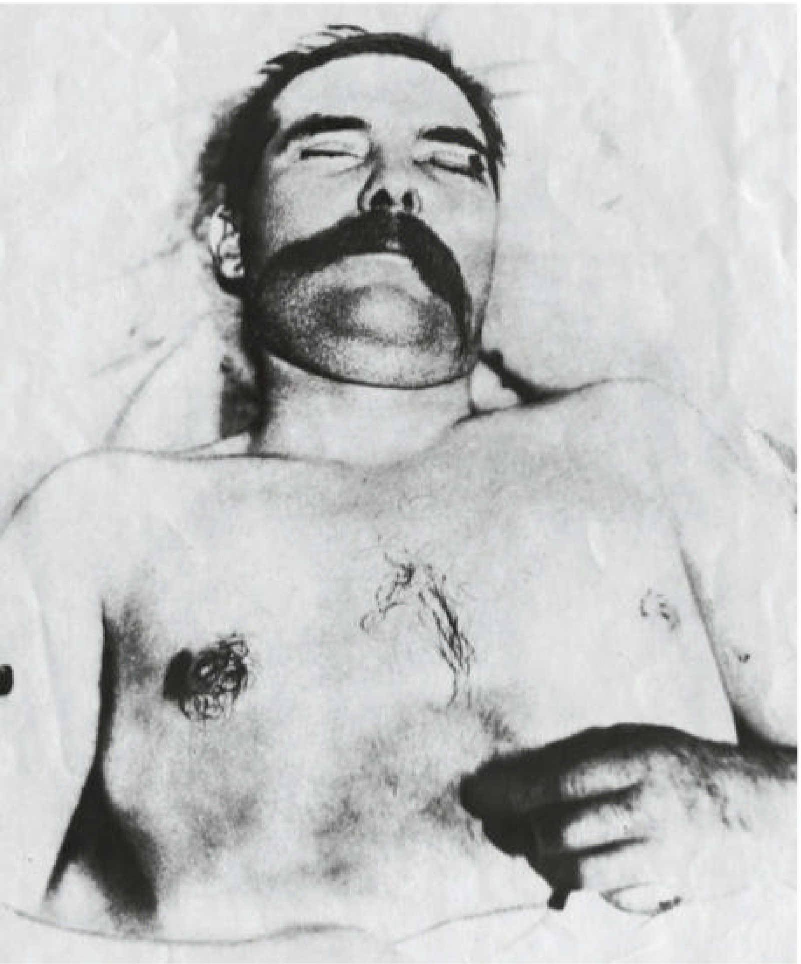
ABOVE Born Henry McCarty, Billy the Kid was later known by other names, including William Bonney. A circa-1877 wanted poster identified him as "Wm. Wright."

LEFT Jesse James circa 1875, before the ill-fated raid on a bank in Northfield, Minnesota.

JOHN WESLEY HARDIN

RIGHT This famous portrait of John Wesley Hardin was once used on a wanted poster distributed by Texas Rangers. "Gunfighter and Forty Times a Killer!" the poster proclaimed.

BELOW A postmortem photo of Hardin. A jury failed to convict his killer, who claimed self-defense.



ON AUG. 23, 1895, A NEWSPAPER in Castroville, Texas, carried a brief announcement of a shooting that had occurred a few days earlier. "John Wesley Hardin the noted Texas desperado, was made to bite the dust, at El Paso on last Monday night," it read. His slayer, explained the newspaper, had been a local constable.

Thus marked the passing of one of the deadliest men in the history of the Wild West. By the time of his demise, John Wesley Hardin had earned a fearsome reputation. He had taken his first life in 1868, at age 15, and gone on killing before being sent to prison 10 years later. While behind bars he began a braggadocio-filled autobiography in which he claimed to have killed 44 men, though historians believe the true number was closer to 20. The dead included one man shot through the wall of a hotel room in Abilene, Kansas, because he was snoring. "They tell lots of lies about me," Hardin wrote. "They say I killed six or seven men for snoring. Well it isn't true. I only shot one man for snoring."

Hot Temper

Hardin was born in 1853 near Bonham, Texas, the son of a Methodist minister who named him after John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist denomination. In 1859 his family settled in Trinity County, Texas, where Hardin attended school. He seems to have had a hot temper from his earliest days: In 1867, he stabbed another student after an argument.

A year later, he killed a former slave once owned by his uncle—in self-defense, he claimed—and then took out three Union soldiers sent to arrest him. "I had no mercy on men whom I knew only wanted to get my body to torture and kill," he wrote in his autobiography, *The Life of John Wesley Hardin, Written by Himself.*

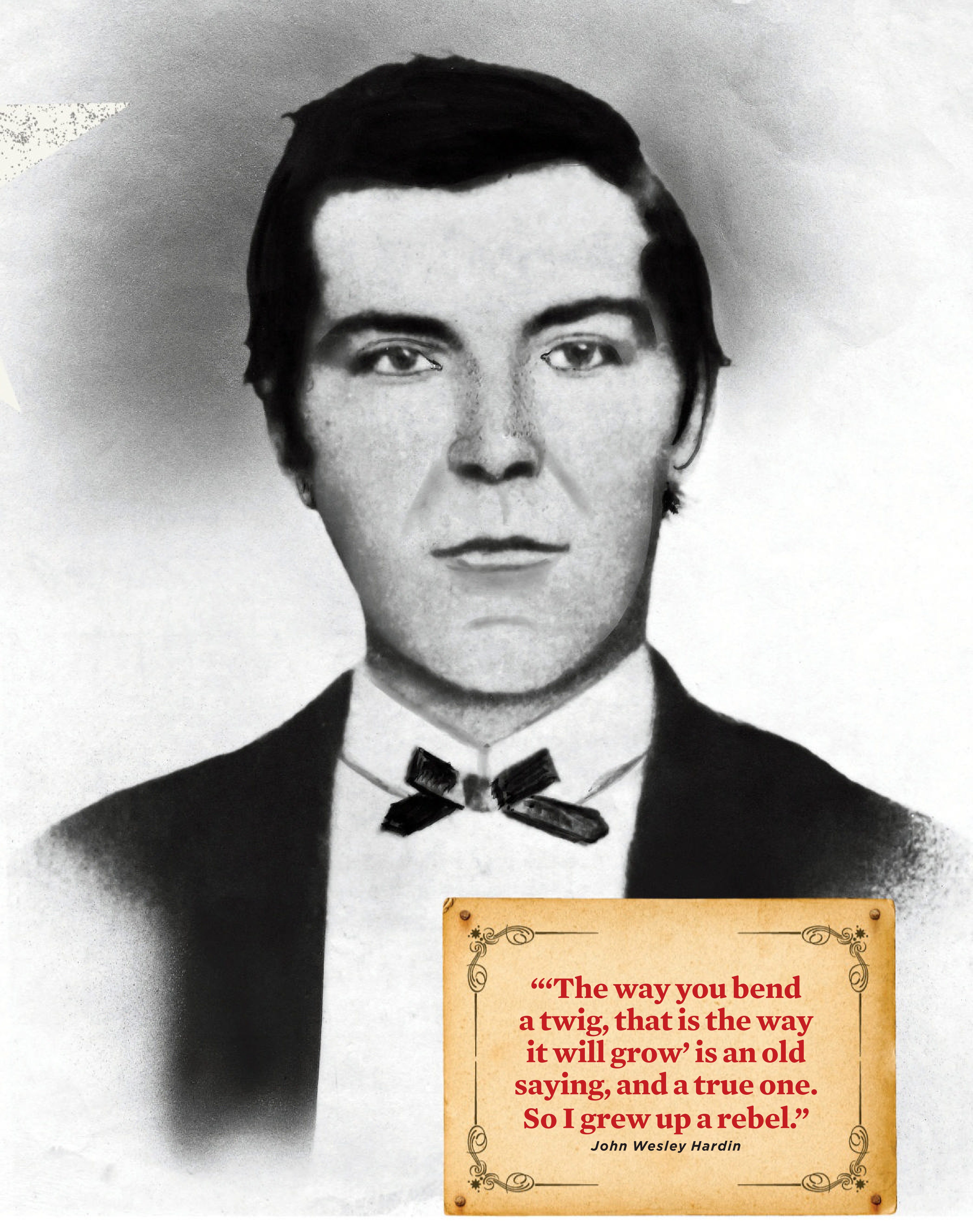
Gunman's Life

Hardin would spent the next 10 years of his life on the run from the law. In 1871, he was arrested for the murder of a Waco, Texas, marshal and ended up killing a state policeman who was transporting him to the city for trial. A rancher then hired him to drive cattle up the Chisholm Trail to Abilene, Kansas, and Hardin jumped at the chance to get out of Texas. But along the way he argued with a Mexican man in charge of another herd and killed him.

After he arrived in Abilene, Hardin made a friend of the town's famous marshal, "Wild Bill" Hickok. Then, while staying at the American House Hotel there, he shot the man snoring in the room next to his. Rather than face a showdown with Hickok, he left town.

Legend

In 1877, Texas Rangers caught up with Hardin on a train heading from Alabama to Pensacola, Florida, and in June 1878 he was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Pardoned after 17 years, he drifted to El Paso, where he ran into trouble with lawman John Selman Jr., who had arrested Hardin's girlfriend for carrying a gun in public. Hardin later had words with Selman's father, a town constable. On Aug. 19, 1895, John Selman Sr. put a bullet in the back of Hardin's head as the notorious killer played dice in a bar. Selman then shot him twice more for good measure.



> “‘The way you bend a twig, that is the way it will grow’ is an old saying, and a true one. So I grew up a rebel.”
>
> *John Wesley Hardin*

BUFFALO BILL

WILLIAM FREDERICK CODY was around to usher in the Wild West era, and he helped usher it out with an entertainment spectacle that told the story of the American frontier. He was born in Iowa Territory in 1846, but his family eventually settled in Kansas Territory, and at age 11 Cody was already working—taking messages on horseback for a local freight carrier. (His claim to have worked for the Pony Express at age 15 has been questioned by historians.) He served in the Union army during the Civil War and later became an army scout in the West, and in 1867 he hunted buffalo to supply meat for railroad construction workers in the West, earning his nickname.

Cody returned to military service from 1868 to 1872, as the U.S. Army fought against Native Americans on the Great Plains. That same year, he served as a scout in a widely publicized buffalo hunt in Nebraska that had been organized for Russian Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich.

By that time, Cody's life and his legend had begun to merge in dime novels (by writer Ned Buntline and others, see page 42) that romanticized his exploits. In 1872, Cody traveled to Chicago to perform in a Wild West show organized by Buntline, called *The Scouts of the Prairie*, and he continued performing for 10 years, while also publishing an autobiography and dime novels of his own.

Legend

In 1883, Cody created *Buffalo Bill's Wild West*, an extravaganza that featured skill acts and narrative retellings of events on the frontier, with performers re-enacting stagecoach robberies and Indian attacks on wagon trains. The show, which toured for 30 years, typically ended with a depiction of Custer's Last Stand in which Cody himself portrayed a heroic Gen. George Custer. Cody died in 1917, at age 70, while visiting his sister in Denver. The show he created would shape how the story of the Wild West would be known in years to come.

FAR LEFT William Frederick “Buffalo Bill” Cody, in a three-piece suit, circa 1890. He insisted on equal pay for all members of his traveling show.

LEFT Phoebe Ann Mosey, aka sharpshooter Annie Oakley, holding a shotgun in the 1880s.

BELOW One of Oakley’s trademark tricks was using a hand mirror to take aim at targets behind her.

ANNIE OAKLEY

Buffalo Bill called her “Li’l Miss,” perhaps because she stood just 5 feet tall. Lakota chief Sitting Bull, who saw her perform in a theater in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1884 and would briefly join her as a performer in *Buffalo Bill’s Wild West* show, called her Watanya Cicilla (“Little Sure Shot”). To the world, she was Annie Oakley, America’s star sharpshooter, but she was born Phoebe Ann Mosey on Aug. 13, 1860, in Darke County, Ohio. She started shooting at age 8 and supported her impoverished family by hunting and selling game. She worked as a servant for a family who essentially held her in bondage—but her life changed in 1875, when, at age 15, she beat marksman Frank Butler in a public shooting contest.

The two would become partners on stage and off. Married for 50 years, they performed across America and in the capitals of Europe, most famously with Buffalo Bill’s show. She could hit dimes tossed in the air, shoot cigarettes from her husband’s lips and, it is said, split a playing card held edge-on at 30 paces. She also learned how to please crowds even when she missed, by pouting theatrically.

Legend

Oakley suffered serious injuries in a train crash in 1901, but later continued performing. In 1904 William Randolph Hearst–owned newspapers in Chicago falsely reported that she’d been arrested for stealing men’s pants to support a cocaine addition. Other newspapers picked up the story and Oakley spent the next six years fighting the allegation, winning all but one of the 55 libel lawsuits she filed.

Oakley performed in various shows through 1913 and branched out into acting. She and her husband were also featured in nickelodeon films shot by Thomas Edison. In 1913, she retired with Butler to Maryland and North Carolina, hunting, giving shooting lessons to women and performing in charity events. She died on Nov. 3, 1926, and Butler followed her 18 days later. Their legendary lives became the basis of the hit Broadway musical *Annie Get Your Gun* and a number of movies.

BAT MASTERSON

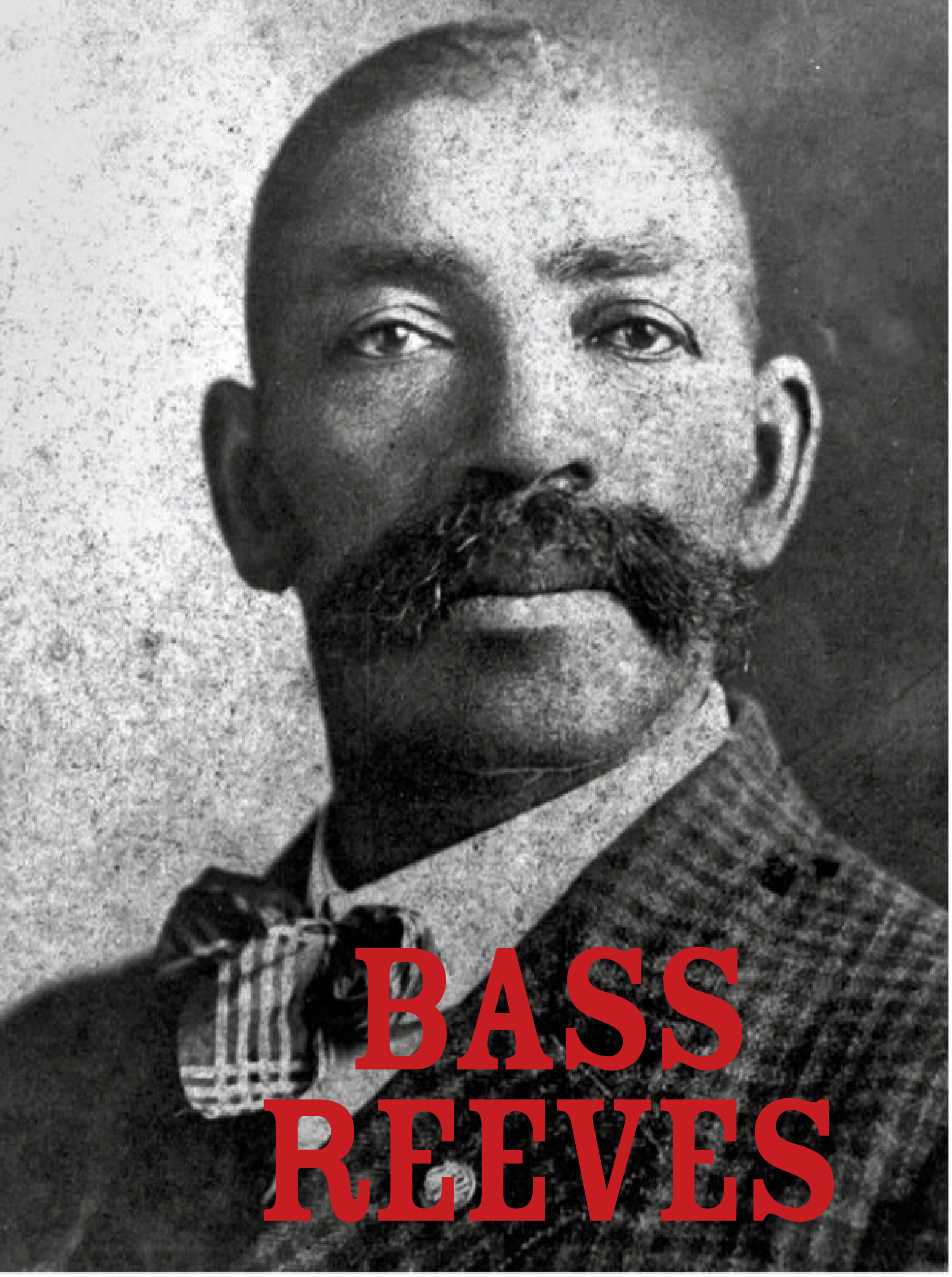
Bartholomew "Bat" Masterson fought his first gunfight on Jan. 24, 1876. It happened in Sweetwater, Texas (later Mobeetie), after arguing with a soldier over the affections of a dance hall girl named Mollie Brennan. Pistols were drawn, and when the shooting was over the soldier was dead. Brennan, hit by one of the soldier's bullets, also lay dead. Masterson was shot in the pelvis, but he recovered. At just 22, he had already lived a rough and rowdy life, leaving a family farm in Quebec, Canada, to work as a buffalo hunter and army scout in the West. After the shoot-out in Sweetwater, his career path changed again. Over the next five years, he would earn fame as a legendary lawman.

By mid-1877, Masterson was an undersheriff in Ford County, Kansas, and the following November he was elected sheriff. He then appointed his brother Ed as town marshal of Dodge City. In April 1878, Ed was killed while trying to disarm a drunken cowboy named Jack Wagner, who was dispatched by Bat shortly thereafter. Dodge's new marshal, Charlie Bassett, brought in an A-team of deputies to keep a lid on the town, including Wyatt and James Earp and another Masterson brother, Jim.

Legacy

Masterson lost a bid for reelection as sheriff in 1879, but his fighting days were not over. By 1881 he was in Tombstone, Arizona, at the invitation of Wyatt Earp, when he learned that his brother Jim had been in a gunfight with two men—a business partner and an employee in the saloon that Jim owned in Dodge. Jim was fine, but Bat took a train to Kansas and confronted his assailants, A.J. Peacock and Al Updegraff. All three men drew their guns, but though Updegraff was hit, no one died. Masterson paid an $8 fine and left town.

He would spend the next four decades of his life working as a lawman, saloon operator and newspaperman in New York City. The survivor of many gunfights died of a heart attack at his desk in New York in 1921.



BASS REEVES

WAS BASS REEVES THE REAL Lone Ranger? At least one historian has made that assertion after researching the life of a lawman who, over the course of a storied career, brought in some 3,000 outlaws. Reeves was one of the first Black deputy U.S. marshals west of the Mississippi, and he made his mark in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with his ability to hunt down desperados—it has been said that he could kill a man from a quarter-mile away with his .44 Winchester rifle—and his unwavering integrity. In 1891 an Arkansas newspaper called him "a holy terror to the lawless characters in the West," and in recent years American popular culture has discovered Reeves anew, burnishing his legend on television and in movies, including the 2019 film *Hell on the Border.*

His real-life exploits as a lawman began after Reeves, born into slavery in Arkansas in 1838, was sent to accompany the son of his owner when the young man went off to fight for the Confederacy during the Civil War. Reeves escaped to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. Freed by the 13th Amendment, he tried farming, but his gun skills later earned him a job working for "hanging judge" Isaac Parker as a marshal assigned to tame the territory, where outlaws of all sorts went to hide from the law.

Legend

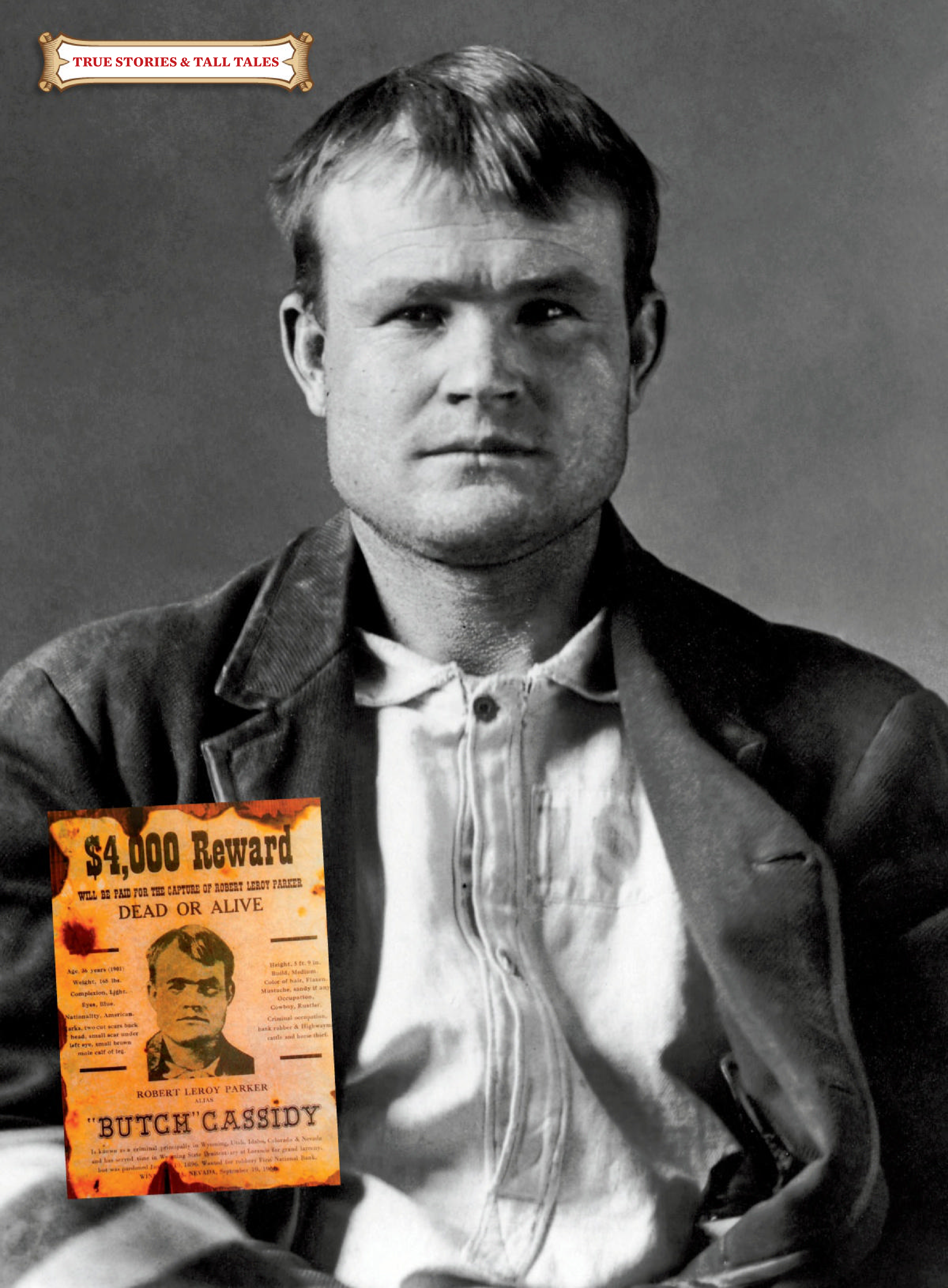
According to one account, the 6-foot-2-inch Reeves emerged from 14 gunfights without a scratch. In his 2006 book *Black Gun, Silver Star: The Life and Legend of Frontier Marshal Bass Reeves,* biographer Art T. Burton posited that the lawman's daring deeds inspired the creation of the Lone Ranger—in part because many of the men Reeves arrested were sent to the Detroit House of Corrections. (It was in Detroit, on radio station WXYZ, that the Lone Ranger's tales began to be told in 1933.)

Reeves' work as a U.S. marshal ended in 1907, when Oklahoma gained statehood and Jim Crow laws prevented him, as a Black person, from holding the job. He worked as a Muskogee, Oklahoma, policeman before dying of kidney disease in 1910 at the age of 71.

LEFT Bass Reeves arrested his own son for murder, insisting on taking on the responsibility of bringing his child to justice.

FAR LEFT Dodge City lawman Bat Masterson was a close friend of President Theodore Roosevelt.

> "Being a former slave, Reeves was illiterate. He would memorize his warrants and writs.... [It] is said he never arrested the wrong person."
>
> *Biographer Art T. Burton*



$4,000 Reward

WILL BE PAID FOR THE CAPTURE OF ROBERT LEROY PARKER

DEAD OR ALIVE

Age 36 years (1901)
Weight, 165 lbs.
Complexion, Light.
Eyes, Blue.
Nationality, American.
arks, two cut scars back
head, small scar under
left eye, small brown
mole calf of leg.

Height, 5 ft. 9 in.
Build, Medium.
Color of hair, Flaxen.
Mustache, sandy if any
Occupation,
Cowboy, Rustler.
Criminal occupation,
bank robber & Highwaym
cattle and horse thief.

ROBERT LEROY PARKER
ALIAS
"BUTCH" CASSIDY

Is known as a criminal principally in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Colorado & Nevada and has served time in Wyoming State Penitentiary at Laramie for grand larceny, but was pardoned Jan [illegible] 1896. Wanted for robbery First National Bank, WIN[illegible] NEVADA, September 19, 1900.

BUTCH CASSIDY

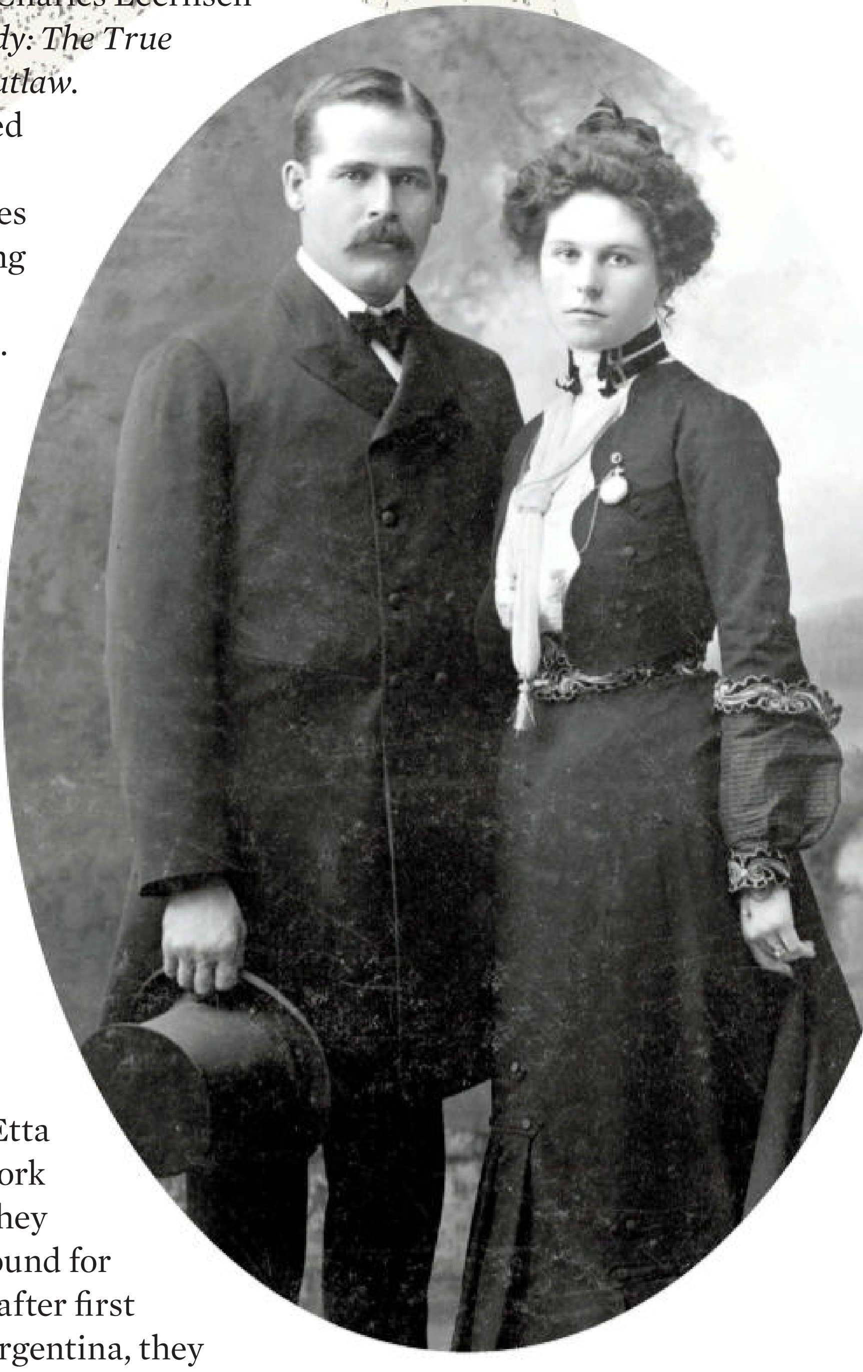
RELATIVELY FEW PEOPLE HAD heard of Butch Cassidy or the Sundance Kid before 1969, when a movie by director George Roy Hill turned the outlaws into Wild West icons of a new sort. The film recast the sturdy heroes typical of Hollywood Westerns as morally equivocal and luminously attractive figures operating in an era when the Wild West wasn't quite as wild as it once had been, and when fact and legend had become so tightly knotted that trying to distinguish between the two was almost beside the point: "Most of what follows is true," notes the film before the action gets underway, and by the time *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* ends—with stars Paul Newman and Robert Redford fading to black during a shoot-out in Bolivia—mostly true is true enough.

Ever since the movie's premiere, though, historians and journalists have been trying to untangle the tale of Butch Cassidy. The truth has been stubbornly elusive. Friends and family of the outlaw have emphatically stated that he was *not* killed in Bolivia in 1909, as had been widely believed. Rather, they said, he came back to the U.S. in his later years, by some accounts living as a trapper and prospector until his death in Spokane, Washington, in 1937. Those claims, however, have been dismissed by a number of researchers. "Total horse pucky," said one Cassidy historian in 2011.

The Sundance Kid

We do know that Cassidy, whose real name was Robert Leroy Parker, was born in 1866. He grew up in Circleville, Utah, in a pioneering Mormon family and is said to have acquired the name Butch while working in a butcher shop. His acquaintance with a small-time cattle rustler and horse thief named Mike Cassidy provided his last name.

By the mid-1890s, Cassidy had served some prison time for horse thievery of his own, and by 1896 he'd formed his own gang, which included Harry Longabaugh, aka The Sundance Kid—a nickname the gunman picked up after stealing a horse in Sundance, Wyoming. Longabaugh, who had grown up in Pennsylvania and come to the West after reading about it in dime novels, was aloof and surly, notes writer Charles Leerhsen in his book *Butch Cassidy: The True Story of an American Outlaw.* Cassidy, a born-and-bred Westerner, preferred company and the fineries of civilization—including Tiffany watches, derby hats and ragtime music.



Legend

Cassidy and his gang staged bank jobs, payroll thefts and train robberies—the most famous of which occurred on June 2, 1899, near Wilcox, Wyoming. Relentlessly pursued afterward by Pinkerton detectives, the outlaws fled to Fort Worth, Texas. Eventually, Butch, Sundance and Sundance's girlfriend, Etta Place, headed to New York City, and in early 1901 they boarded a steamship bound for South America. There, after first settling on a ranch in Argentina, they eventually went back to their outlaw ways.

Etta Place returned to the U.S. in 1906, and thereafter disappeared from history. In November 1908, two bandits believed to be Cassidy and The Sundance Kid robbed payroll guards from the Aramayo silver mine in southern Bolivia. A few days later, the outlaws found themselves trapped by authorities in a house in the town of San Vincente. And that is where Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid died, in a blaze of glory. Unless they didn't.

ABOVE **Harry Longabaugh, aka The Sundance Kid, and Etta Place, just before they sailed for South America in 1901. Place would return to the U.S. in 1906.**

LEFT **An 1894 mugshot of Butch Cassidy taken at the Wyoming Territorial Prison in Laramie.**

FRONTIER FAME

12 OTHERS WHO WROTE THEIR NAMES INTO THE HISTORY OF THE WEST.

CALAMITY JANE

1852–1903 Born Martha Jane Cannary, the famed frontierswoman, dance hall girl, scout, sharpshooter and performer claimed to have earned her nickname by saving an army captain from calamity during a conflict with Native Americans—although it's also been said she acquired it by telling men that courting her would lead to calamity. Known for dressing in men's clothes, she became a popular raconteur in *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* show. She struggled with alcoholism and adored "Wild Bill" Hickok, whom she claimed to have wed and next to whom she is buried in Deadwood, South Dakota.

TOM "BEAR RIVER" SMITH

1830–1870 A former New York City policeman, Smith worked for the Union Pacific Railroad in Nebraska and later earned his nickname as a lawman in Bear River City, Wyoming, when he stood up to a band of vigilantes. In June 1870 he became marshal of Abilene, Kansas, and put an end to the cow town's notorious rowdiness by banning weapons. On Nov. 2, 1870, he was shot down while trying to arrest a man for murder. The town returned to its lawless ways until the arrival of a new marshal, "Wild Bill" Hickok.

GERONIMO

1829–1909 A prominent Apache leader and medicine man, he united several Chiricahua Apache bands to fight against Mexican and American forces trying to remove his people from their native lands. The murder of his first wife and children by Mexican soldiers is said to have set him on his path to war. He repeatedly evaded capture, and on Sept. 4, 1886, he became the last Native American leader to formally surrender to the U.S. military. He spent the last 20 years of his life as a prisoner of war.

WILLIAM "BILL" TILGHMAN

1854–1924 Born to homesteaders in Atchison, Kansas, William Matthew Tilghman Jr. became a buffalo hunter at age 15. Although he was said to be a teetotaler, he opened a saloon in Dodge City, Kansas, in 1875 and was soon hired by Ford County Sheriff Bat Masterson as a deputy. In 1889, he moved to Oklahoma and became a Deputy U.S. marshal, and in 1896 he single-handedly captured outlaw Bill Doolin. He died at the age of 70 after being shot by a corrupt prohibition agent he was trying to arrest in Cromwell, Oklahoma.

BIG NOSE KATE HORONY

1849–1940 Orphaned at age 15, she fled a foster home a year later and made her way from Iowa to St. Louis on a riverboat. By 1874, she was a prostitute in Dodge City, and by 1876 she was in Fort

Griffin, Texas, where she began a legendary relationship with Doc Holliday. In 1880 she and Holliday were in Tombstone, Arizona, and she may have seen the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in 1881. She was later married for a time to a blacksmith in Aspen, Colorado, but lived out her final years in Arizona.

BLACK BART

1829–1888 (?) Charles E. Boles, aka Black Bart, earned fame not only for the stagecoach robberies he pulled in northern California and southern Oregon during the 1870s and 1880s, but also for the poetic missives he left behind after some of his robberies. After he was wounded during a robbery in 1883, he fled the area, leaving behind some items, including a handkerchief with a laundry mark. Wells Fargo detectives traced the handkerchief to San Francisco, and Boles ended up in prison. After his release he made his way to Nevada, where he disappeared.

LAURA BULLION

1876–1961 Not every member of Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch gang was a rough-and-tumble man. One was a woman: In the 1890s, Laura Bullion, known as the "Rose of the Wild Bunch," worked alongside Cassidy, The Sundance Kid, "Black Jack" Ketchum, Kid Curry and Ben Kilpatrick, who was also her boyfriend. She ended up serving three years in prison for her part in the 1901 robbery of a Great Northern train in Montana. Bullion lived the last years of her life in Memphis, Tennessee, working as a seamstress and drapery maker.

JOHN C. FRÉMONT

1813–1890 After serving in the United States Topographical Corps, Frémont (above) went on to lead five expeditions into the western U.S. in the 1840s, helping to open up the region for American expansion and earning himself the nickname "Pathfinder." He helped establish American dominance in California, joined in the state's gold rush in the late 1840s, and then became a U.S. senator from California. In 1856 he was the first Republican Party presidential nominee. He served as a military commander during the Civil War and later as Arizona's territorial governor.

PEARL HART

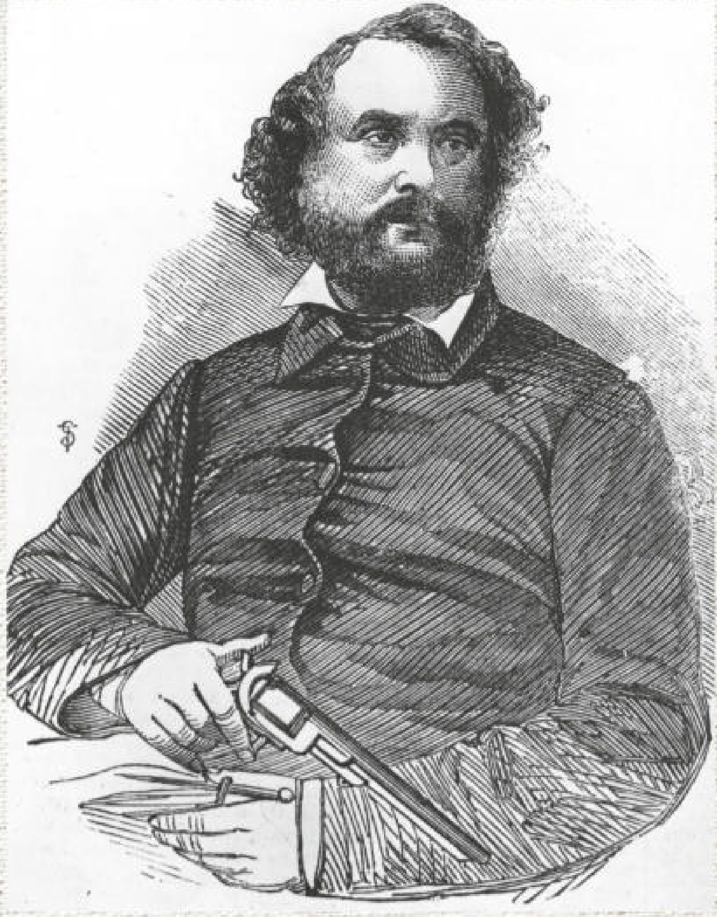
1871–1955 (?) One of the last recorded stagecoach robberies in the U.S. was pulled off by a woman, Pearl Hart. Various accounts of her life are contradictory, but it's known that she was born in Canada, was married early in her life to an abusive alcoholic, and eventually ended up in Arizona. A stagecoach robbery in 1899 landed her in prison. Some say she later performed with *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* show; other accounts hold that she married an Arizona rancher and lived into her 80s.

PAT GARRETT

1850–1908 A one-time buffalo hunter, Pat Garrett moved to Fort Sumner, New Mexico, in 1878, just as the bloody Lincoln County War was drawing to an end. He befriended Billy the Kid while working as a bartender, but after Garrett was appointed Lincoln County sheriff in 1880, he hunted down Billy and killed him in 1881. He then wrote a biography of the outlaw, *The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid, the Noted Desperado of the Southwest*. Garrett died when he was shot in the back after a land dispute near Las Cruces, New Mexico.

SAMUEL COLT

1814–1862 Samuel Colt didn't live to see the Wild West era in its full bloom of violence, but the pistols he invented and manufactured became the weapons of choice for many Western gunmen. It's said that Colt got the idea for his revolver designs from studying a ship's capstan—a ratcheted device used for winding rope or cable. His business struggled until 1847, when the Texas Rangers ordered 1,000 revolvers during the Mexican-American war. The Colt Single-Action Army revolver became known as "the gun that won the West."

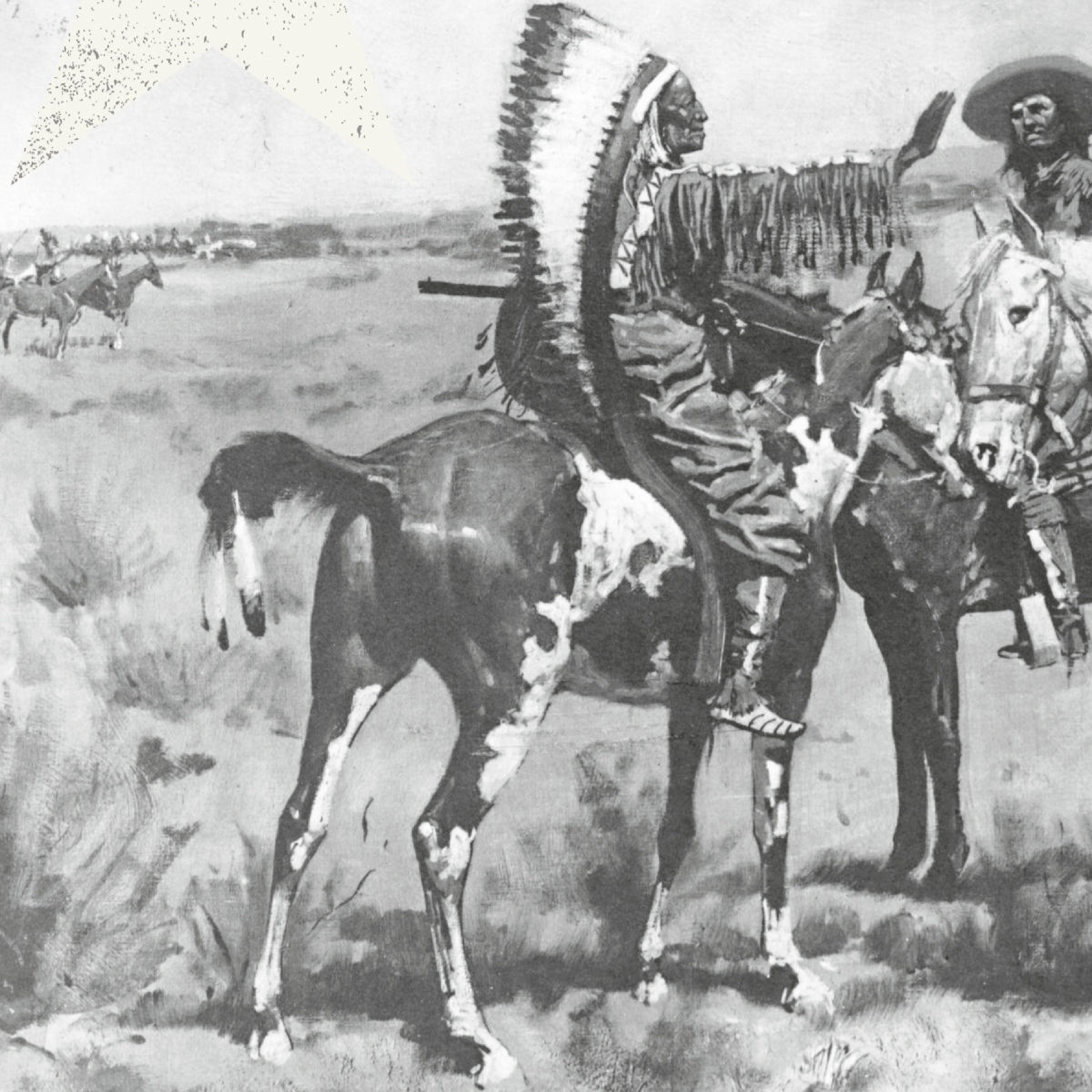


COLE YOUNGER

1844–1916 The eldest of the outlaw Younger brothers—partners with Frank and Jesse James in the James-Younger Gang—Cole Younger's criminal career ended on Sept. 7, 1876, during the attempted robbery of a bank in Northfield, Minnesota. While the James brothers got away, Cole, Jim and Bob Younger were wounded and captured. Bob died in prison of tuberculosis, and Cole and Jim were paroled in 1901. Cole later toured in a Wild West show with Frank James, who was never convicted of any of his crimes.

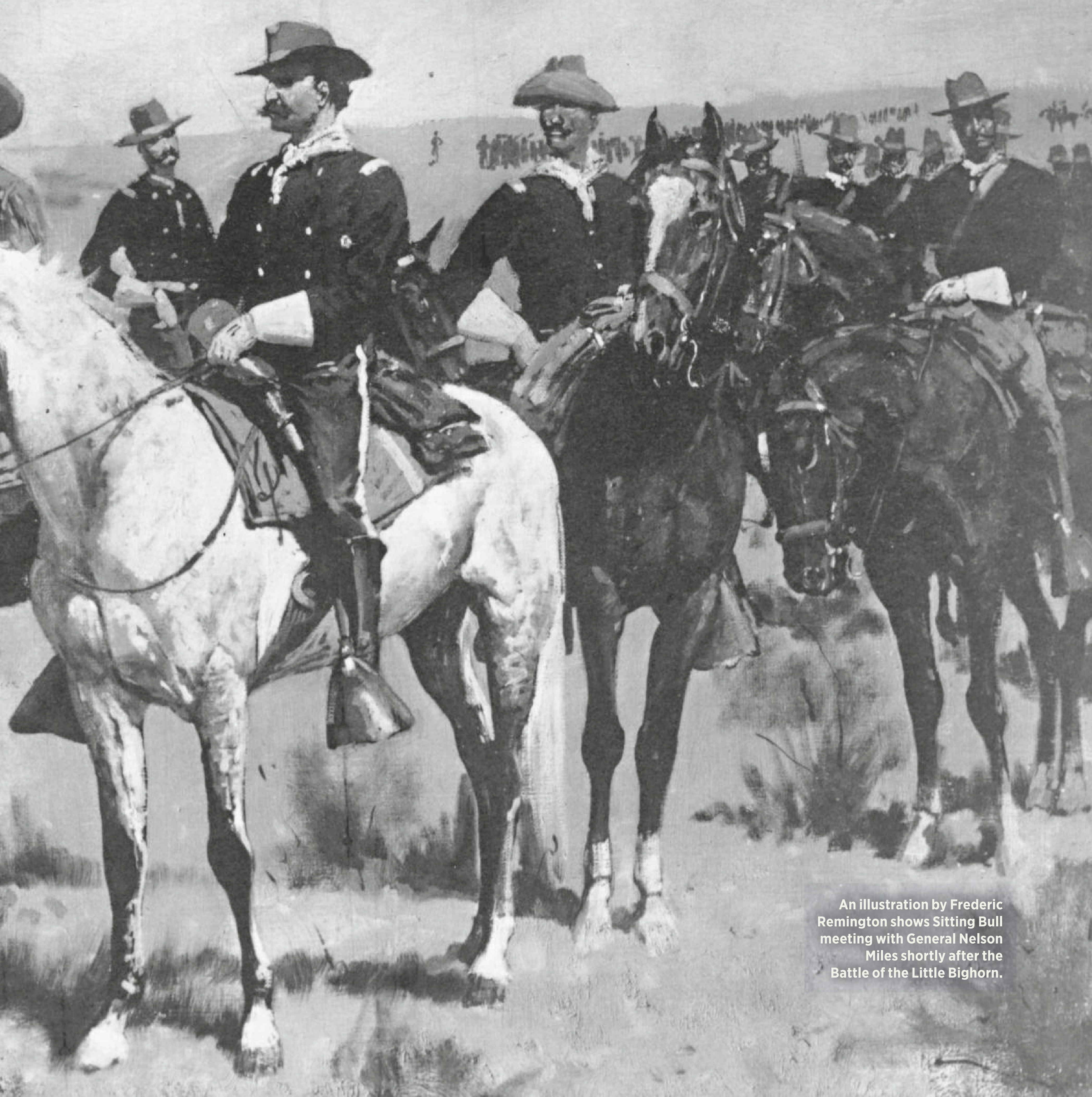
‘A WARRIOR

LAKOTA CHIEF SITTING BULL FIERCELY RESISTED THOSE WHO WOULD

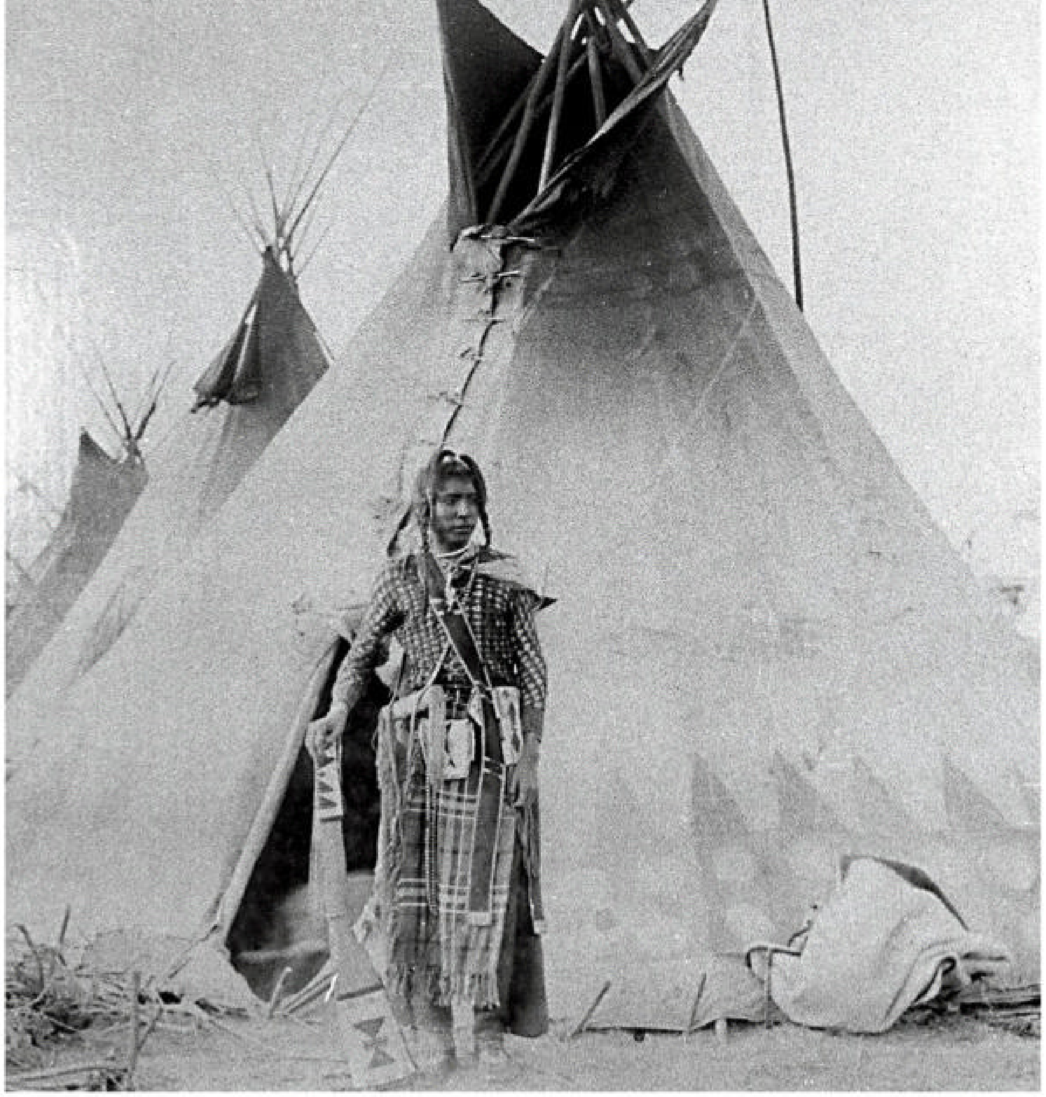


I HAVE BEEN’

TAKE HIS PEOPLE’S LAND, UNTIL HE COULD RESIST NO LONGER.



An illustration by Frederic Remington shows Sitting Bull meeting with General Nelson Miles shortly after the Battle of the Little Bighorn.



On March 1, 1876, *The New York Herald* daily newspaper carried a brief news item noting that Gen. George Crook and Gen. George Custer of the United States Army had set out with forces from two separate western forts "to operate against Sitting Bull near the mouth of the Powder River in the Yellowstone country." The Lakota leader, reported the newspaper, was "on the warpath," standing in defiance of a treaty "which requires his people to remain on their reservation." It was the Army's hope that Crook and Custer, along with a third force arriving from western Montana, would force Sitting Bull and his followers to end their defiance.

For years, Sitting Bull had refused to abandon lands he believed should belong to his people, even as other Native American leaders signed treaties with the U.S. government. In 1868, two dozen tribal leaders, including Oglala Lakota chief Red Cloud, had signed the Fort Laramie Treaty, bringing to an end a conflict between the U.S. and tribes of Lakota, Northern Cheyenne and Northern Arapaho in present-day Wyoming. The treaty established a Great Sioux Reservation in modern-day South Dakota, including the Black Hills, a sacred place for the Sioux. The government offered food rations to those on the reservation, but Sitting Bull had not signed the treaty. Instead, he led his Hunkpapa Lakota people to "unceded Indian territory" where they could hunt buffalo as they always had.

"Look at me," he once said to members of the Assiniboine tribe. "See if I am poor, or my people either. The whites may get me at last, as you say, but I will have good times until then. You are fools to make yourself slaves to a piece of fat bacon, some hard tack, and a little sugar and coffee."

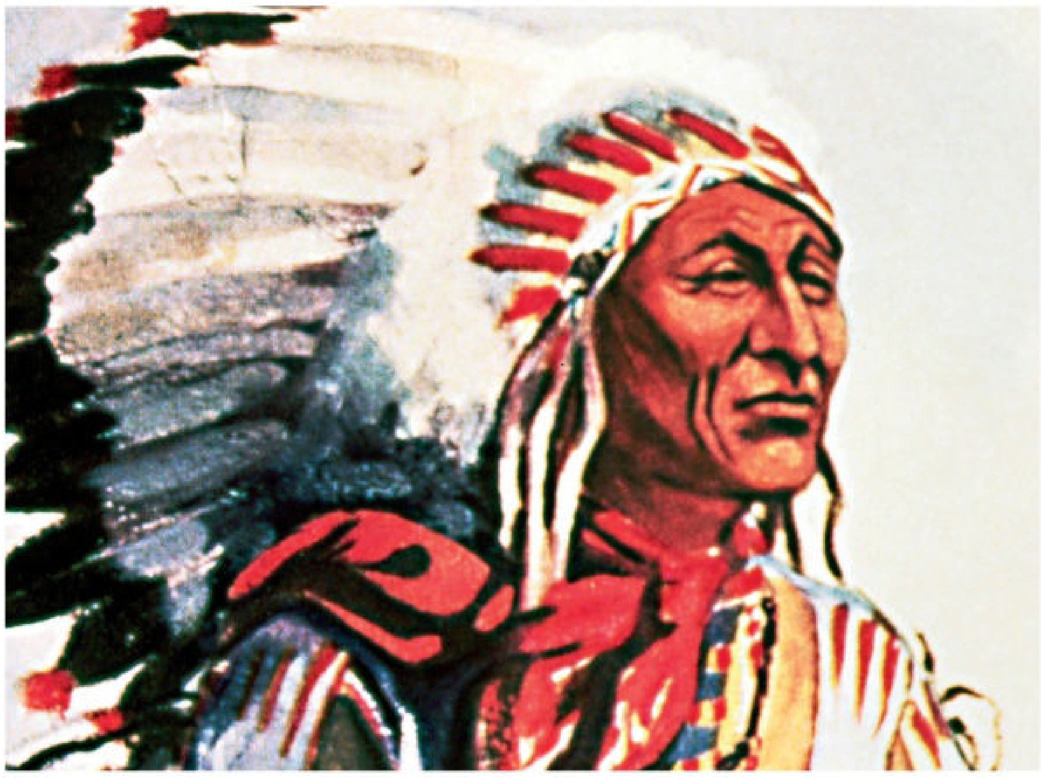
Then, in 1874, a U.S. Army expedition led by Custer had discovered gold in the Black Hills, and white people dreaming of riches poured into the area, in violation of the Fort Laramie treaty. The government at first tried to stop whites from doing so, then gave up. Later, the U.S. offered to buy the Black Hills, but Sitting Bull and other chiefs rejected the idea. To solve the dilemma, the government contrived a cause for war, ordering Lakota bands in the unceded Indian territory to move onto the reservation, knowing that not all would comply. The provocation allowed the army to pursue Sitting Bull and other Lakota bands declared to be "hostile."

Sitting Bull would not back down. By this time he was, according to many historians, the supreme chief of the Sioux nation, a renowned war leader and holy man. In the spring of 1876, he experienced a vision after enduring a long Sundance ritual in which the flesh on his arms was repeatedly gouged. In it he foresaw soldiers falling into a Lakota camp like grasshoppers, their feet pointed at the sky. It was a good omen.

Shortly thereafter, on June 25, 1876, some 2,000 Sioux and Cheyenne warriors led by Sitting Bull and Oglala Lakota chief Crazy

ABOVE **Reservation life and Lakota chiefs, circa 1891, probably at or near the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.**

LEFT **Lakota chief Sitting Bull photographed with Buffalo Bill Cody in Canada, circa 1880.**



Crazy Horse famously led the Oglala Sioux attack on Gen. George Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876.

Horse dealt the army a humiliating defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana, killing 268 soldiers of the 7th Cavalry, including Custer. In the aftermath of the military disaster, the U.S. redoubled its efforts to hunt down Sitting Bull, but by May 1877 he had led his people into Canada, out of the reach of the Army.

Life of Resistance

History, declares Sitting Bull biographer Robert M. Utley, has judged the Lakota leader "to be among the greatest chiefs of western American Indians—perhaps the greatest chief of all." But while his own story is singular, adds Utley, he was not alone in "struggling to break the grip of the white man over his life and destiny." He and other Native American leaders succeeded in doing so to varying degrees, but in the end they all met the same fate. In 1881, Sitting Bull became the last of the Sioux to surrender, and the last of all the Native Americans of the West to do so, except for a handful of Apache followers of Geronimo, who would surrender five years later.

Sitting Bull was born sometime around 1831, on land that is now part of South Dakota. He was called Jumping Badger at first, and then Slow, a name that reflected his careful nature. At age 14 he accompanied a group of 10 warriors from his tribe on a foray into the territory of the Crow, a traditional enemy of the Hunkpapa Lakota. After counting his first coup—a prestige earned when he struck a Crow warrior with his tomahawk—his father gave him a new name: Tatanka-Iyotanka, representing an implacable buffalo bull sitting on its haunches to watch over his heard. "Sitting Bull's life reflected that image," writes Utley in his book *The Last Sovereigns: Sitting Bull & the Resistance of the Free Lakotas*.

By 1857, Sitting Bull had been made the war chief of the Hunkpapa tribe. Over the following years he would find himself in increasing conflict with white people settling on the plains and the U.S. Army—tensions that culminated with the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

The Last Man

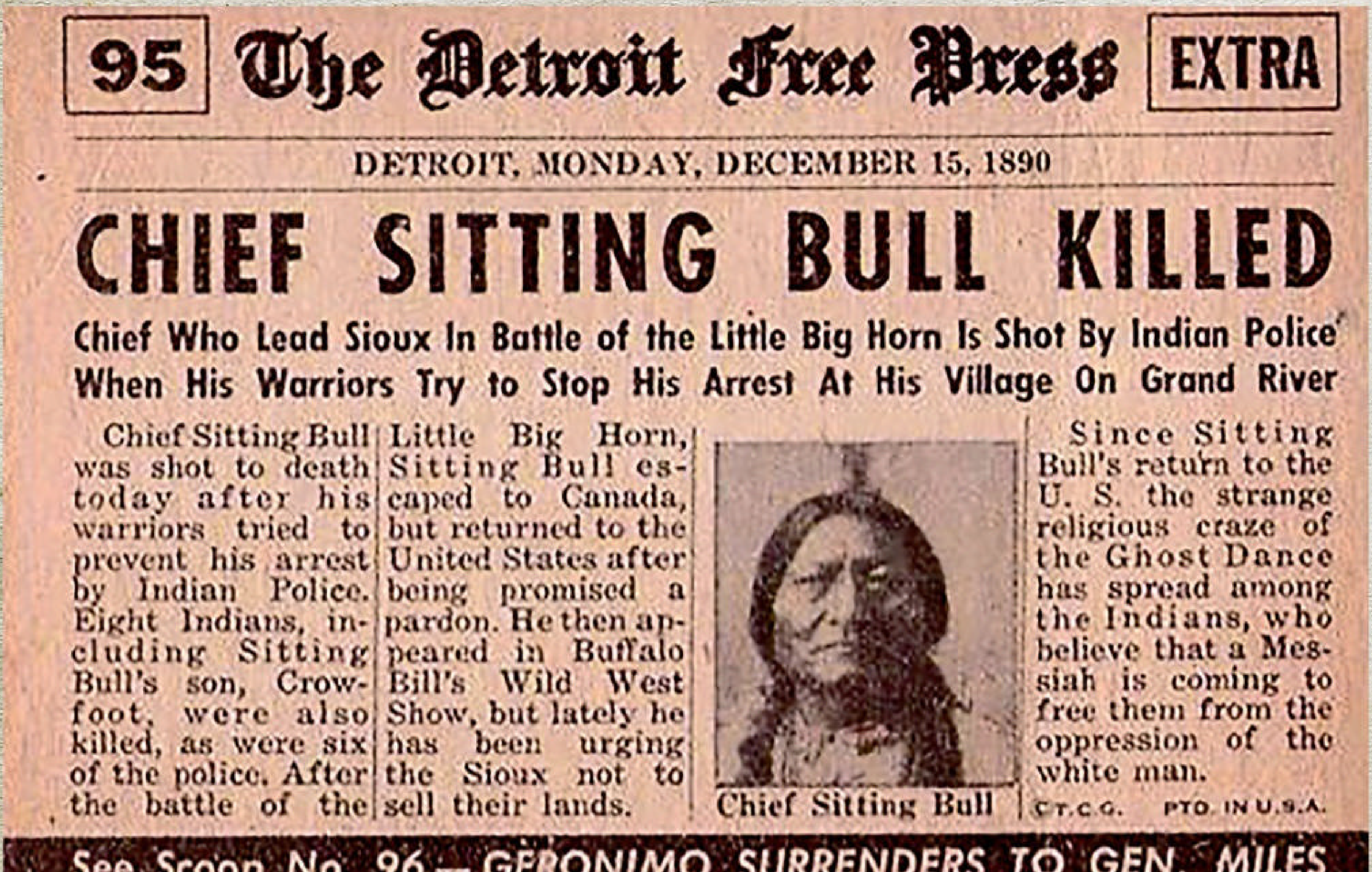
Sitting Bull and his people spent four years in Canada, but smaller buffalo herds there meant hunger and desperation. At last they returned to the U.S., and on July 19, 1881, Sitting Bull surrendered his Winchester carbine to Maj. David H. Brotherton at Fort Buford in present-day North Dakota, saying, "I wish it to be remembered that I was the last man of my tribe to surrender my rifle."

He and his followers were held prisoner for nearly two years at Fort Randall in what is now South Dakota and were then taken to the Standing Rock Agency, on the boundary between North and South Dakota. There they fell under the authority of Indian agent James McLaughlin, who worried about Sitting Bull's influence. The confined Sitting Bull composed a song: "A warrior I have been. Now it is all over. A hard time I have."

In 1884, McLaughlin, perhaps hoping to be rid of Sitting Bull, allowed the famed warrior to take part in an exhibition tour of northern cities organized by a Minnesota businessman. In St. Paul, Minnesota, Sitting Bull saw Annie Oakley perform and was enthralled by her shooting skills. He symbolically adopted Oakley as a daughter, and in 1885 he joined her as a performer in *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* show. He was paid $50 a week to ride around arenas once per show for audiences who booed him, then he made more when they asked for his autograph. He gave much of the money to beggars he saw on city streets, and after four months, fed up with white people, he returned to the reservation. There he had another vision. In this one, he foresaw his own death, at the hands of Native Americans.

THE DEATH OF SITTING BULL

A scuffle leads to gunshots and the killing of a preeminent Native American chief.



95 **The Detroit Free Press** EXTRA

DETROIT, MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1890

CHIEF SITTING BULL KILLED

Chief Who Lead Sioux In Battle of the Little Big Horn Is Shot By Indian Police When His Warriors Try to Stop His Arrest At His Village On Grand River

Chief Sitting Bull was shot to death today after his warriors tried to prevent his arrest by Indian Police. Eight Indians, including Sitting Bull's son, Crowfoot, were also killed, as were six of the police. After the battle of the Little Big Horn, Sitting Bull escaped to Canada, but returned to the United States after being promised a pardon. He then appeared in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, but lately he has been urging the Sioux not to sell their lands.

Chief Sitting Bull

Since Sitting Bull's return to the U. S. the strange religious craze of the Ghost Dance has spread among the Indians, who believe that a Messiah is coming to free them from the oppression of the white man.

C.T.C.G. PTO. IN U.S.A.

See Scoop No. 96—GERONIMO SURRENDERS TO GEN. MILES

Sitting Bull's death was front-page news across the United States—a testament to his fame as the last of the Sioux to surrender.

After performing with *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* show and returning to the Standing Rock reservation, Sitting Bull was once again under the control of Indian agent James McLaughlin. Tensions increased as more and more Sioux confined on reservations began adhering to the Ghost Dance—a recently developed religious movement rejecting the ways of white people. Followers of the movement believed that performing the dance would reunite them with the spirits of their ancestors, bringing peace and plenty and an end to the encroachment of whites. Sitting Bull did not participate in the dance, although he seems to have encouraged it. In any case, a worried McLaughlin ordered Sitting Bull to be arrested.

Early on the morning of Dec. 15, 1890, Indian police led by Lt. Henry Bullhead awakened Sitting Bull in his cabin. A crowd gathered, and when the police began to take Sitting Bull by force, a Lakota man shot Bullhead. The wounded policeman then fired his revolver, hitting Sitting Bull in the chest. Another Indian policeman then shot Sitting Bull in the head. When it was over, the Lakota leader and several of his people were dead.

Two weeks later, the U.S. 7th Cavalry surrounded an encampment of Lakota Ghost Dancers at Wounded Knee Creek on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Once again a scuffle turned deadly. In the aftermath, some 150 or more Lakota men, women and children had been killed.

EYEWITNESS TO An ERA

C.S. FLY SAW THE GUNFIGHT AT THE O.K. CORRAL TAKE PLACE RIGHT OUTSIDE HIS PHOTO STUDIO IN TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA, BUT HE ALSO TRAVELED FAR AND WIDE TO CAPTURE THE HISTORY OF THE WILD WEST.

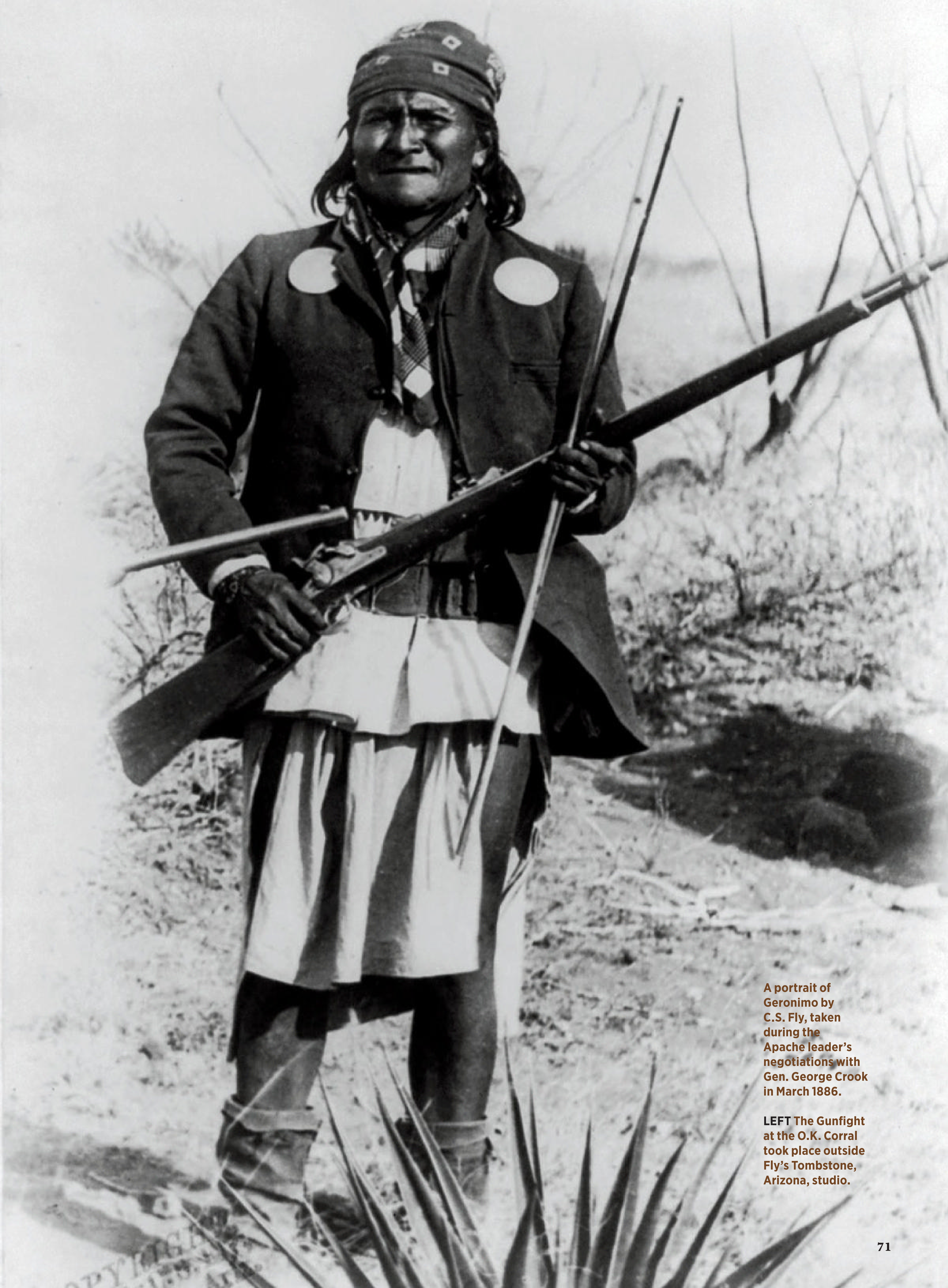
Flys Photography Gallery
C.S. FLY, PROP.

In late March 1886, Gen. George Crook of the United States Army received word that the Apache leader Geronimo was willing to discuss terms of surrender, after a decade spent battling the Army's efforts to resettle him and his followers on reservations. But Geronimo declined to meet Crook on American soil, instead naming the Cañon de los Embudos in northern Mexico as the site for the negotiations.

Soon thereafter, *The Daily Tombstone* of Tombstone, Arizona, reported that Camillus Sydney Fly, better known as C.S. Fly, or by his preferred nickname, Buck, had been seen leaving town with "his photographic apparatus." Fly, who ran a photo studio in Tombstone with his wife, Mollie, had learned of the impending meeting between Crook and Geronimo and decided to attach himself to the troops heading into Mexico.

During the three days of negotiations between Crook and the Apaches, Fly scurried to document the scene. One soldier later recalled how Fly coolly asked Geronimo and his warriors "to change positions, and turn their heads or faces, to improve the negative." Another witness said Fly "would step up to an officer and say, 'just put your hat a little more on this side, General. No Geronimo, your right foot must rest on that stone.'"

The meeting between Crook and Geronimo ended badly, when the Apaches, fearing a



A portrait of Geronimo by C.S. Fly, taken during the Apache leader's negotiations with Gen. George Crook in March 1886.

LEFT **The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral took place outside Fly's Tombstone, Arizona, studio.**

ANCHOR BRAND
EASY PHOTO

A darkroom exhibit in the reconstructed the C.S. Fly photography studio in Tombstone. After Fly's death in 1901, his wife, Mollie, continued the business for some time until the studio and boardinghouse was destroyed in a fire.

double cross, slipped away at night. The escape would cost Crook his command, but Fly came away with photographs that earned him national attention after he sold six of them to *Harper's Weekly* magazine, which printed them in its April 24, 1886, issue, proudly noting in its layout that they were "the only photographs of a hostile camp before surrender."

The images also captured the passing of an era: The following September, Geronimo would surrender for the last time to Gen. Nelson Miles near the Mexico-Arizona border, bringing the end of the Indian Wars in the Southwest.

Pioneering Photojournalist

A Phoenix newspaper would later call Fly "one of the greatest artists in America"—an assertion that is certainly open to debate. But there is no debate that Fly immortalized the Wild West era with his camera, documenting everything from saloons and prospectors to Tom McLaury, Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton, in their caskets, after they were killed during the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral on Oct. 26, 1881. Fly had a unique perspective on the famous shoot-out, since it took place in the empty lot next to his Tombstone studio.

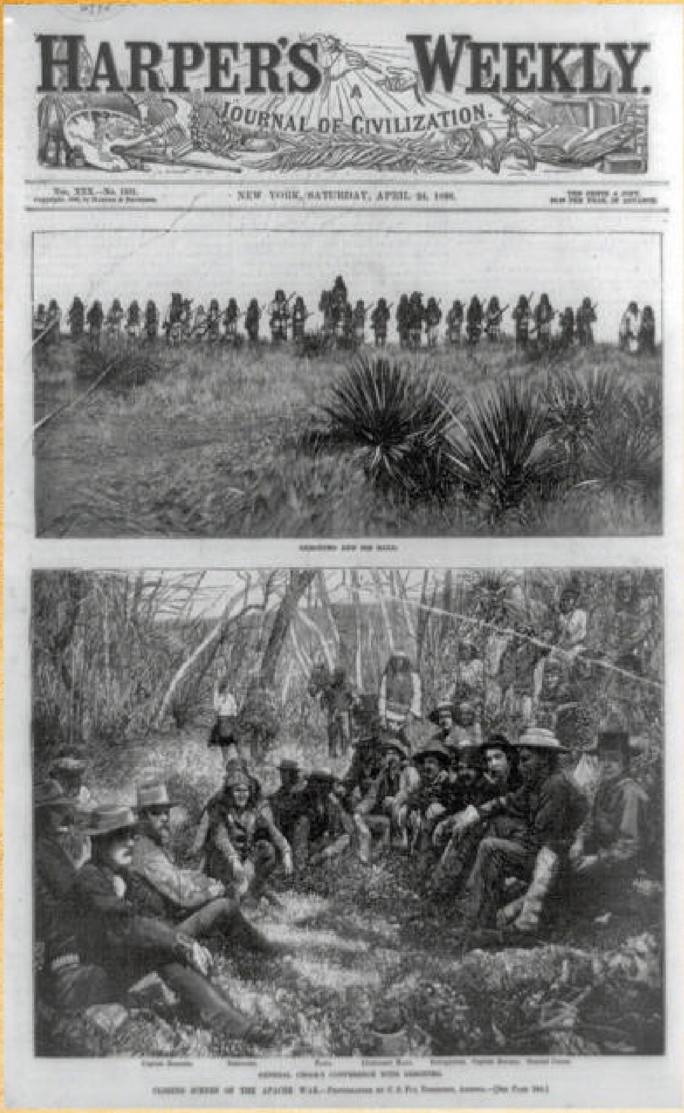
Fly wasn't able to photograph the gunplay that erupted suddenly that day, but he certainly stayed busy while it happened. Billy Clanton's brother Ike took refuge from the guns of Wyatt Earp and company by running inside Fly's studio, and after the shooting was over, it was Fly who removed the pistol from Billy's hand as he lay dying.

By that time, Fly was well known in the Arizona boomtown, having arrived there two years earlier. Born in Missouri in 1849, he was raised in northern California, where he worked for a time as a farmer before taking up photography. In September 1879, he married Mary E. "Mollie" Goodrich, who was also a photographer, and by the following December the couple had moved to Tombstone and set up their studio in a tent.

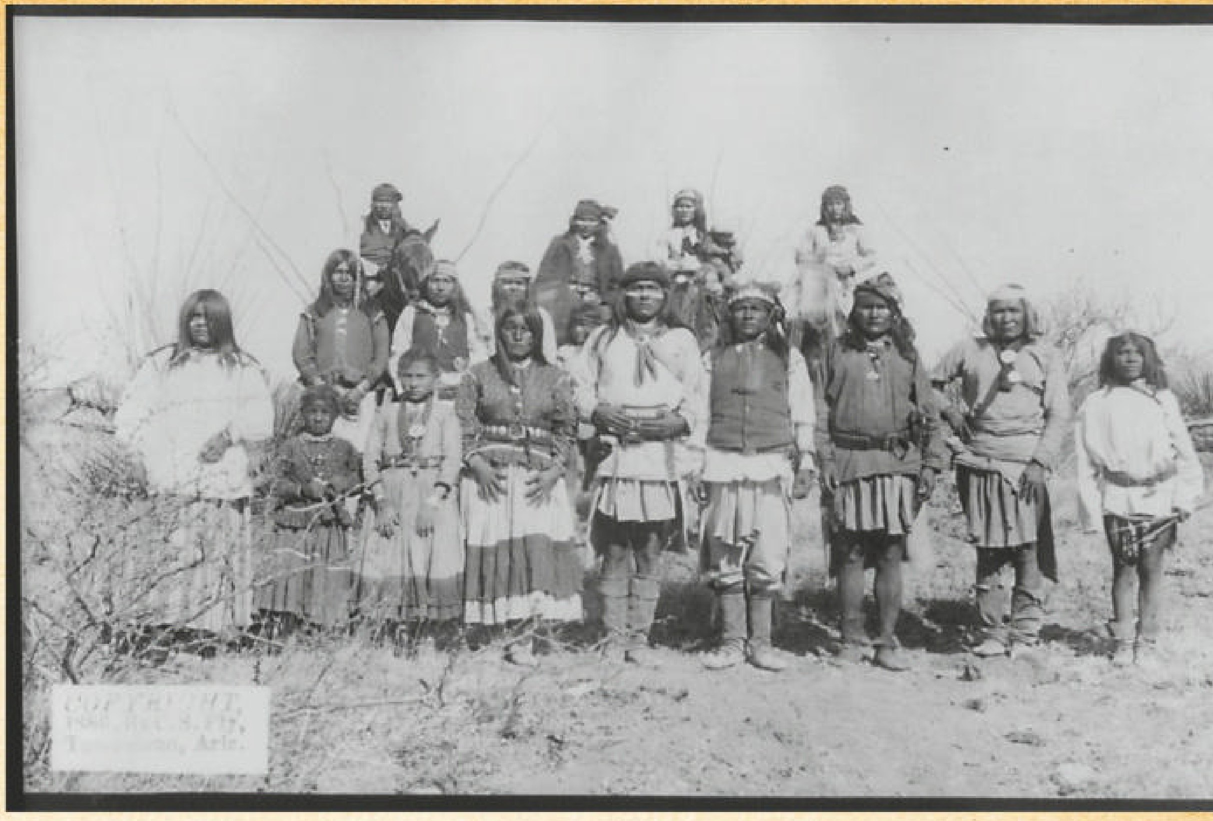
By the following year they had built a boardinghouse that also served as a studio and art gallery. Newspapers from the time note that Mollie operated the gallery and studio when her husband traveled throughout the territory with his camera, charging patrons 35 cents for a portrait. In 1880, Fly partnered for a time with another man to start a studio at the Harshaw mining camp near the Mexican border and was rewarded when some of his pictures were included in a publication documenting the mining boom in the region.

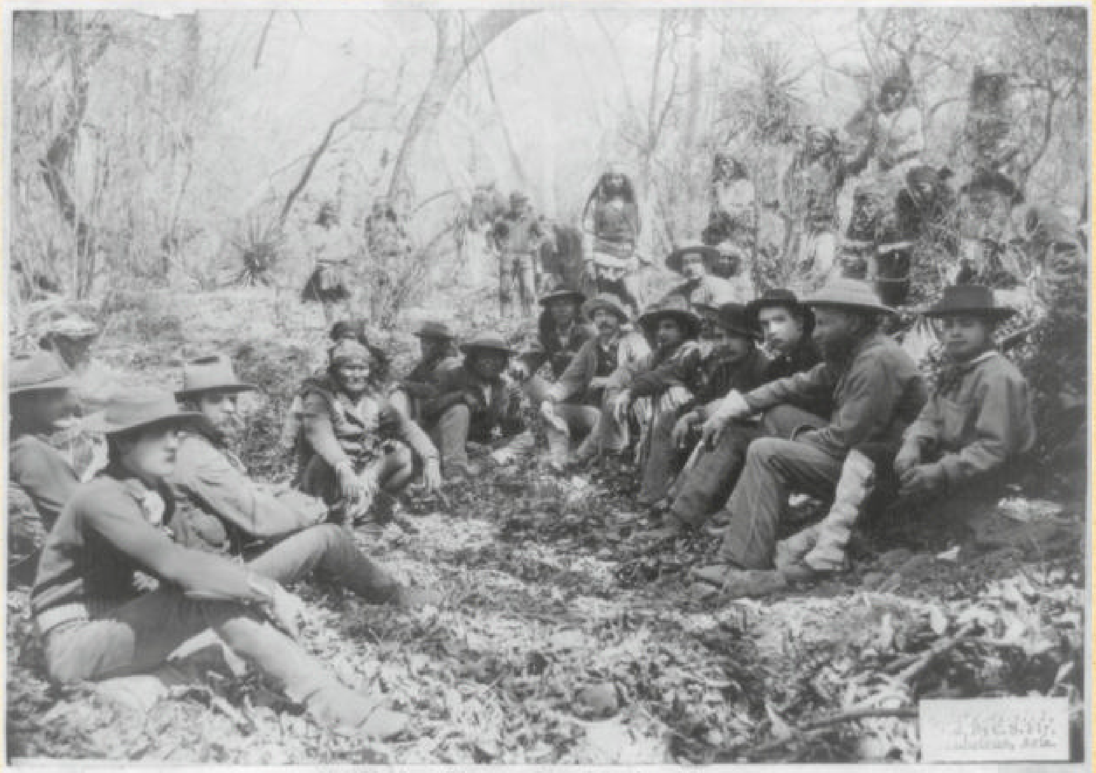
His coup in photographing Geronimo in 1886 cemented his legacy as a pioneering photojournalist: At a time when cumbersome and limited photographic technology kept most photographers inside portrait studios, Fly took his camera to the places where history was happening. But his life and work were always to be linked to the fate of Tombstone. As the mines in the region played out, he traveled farther afield, and 1893 he and Mollie began a photography business in Phoenix. When it failed, Fly returned to Tombstone, where he started a new career: In November 1894, he was elected sheriff of Cochise County.

After serving a single two-year term in the office, he and Mollie moved to the copper mining town of Bisbee, Arizona, and there he died in October 1901. Fly was buried in Tombstone, where Mollie continued to operate a gallery on her own. In 1912 she retired to Los Angeles, and she died there in 1925, after donating her husband's negatives to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

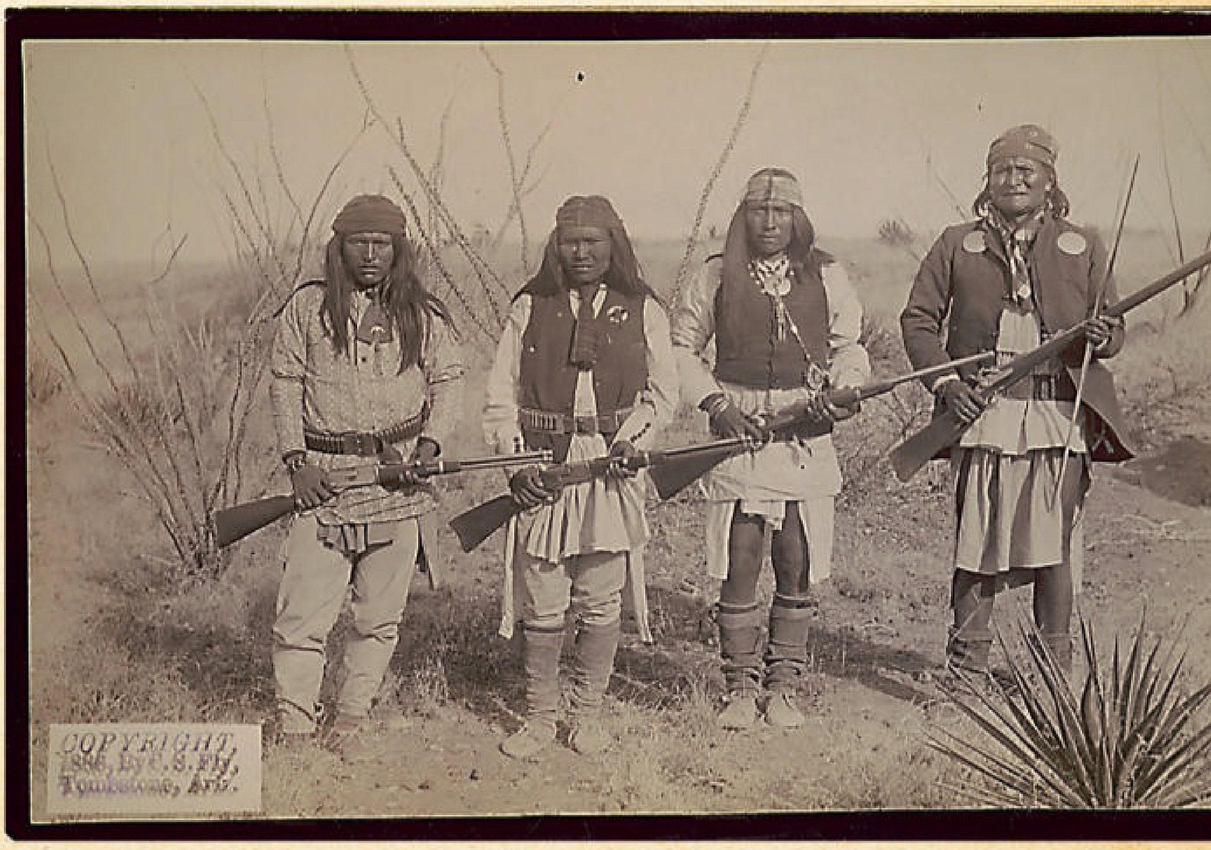


HARPER'S WEEKLY.
JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION.
NEW YORK, SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1886.

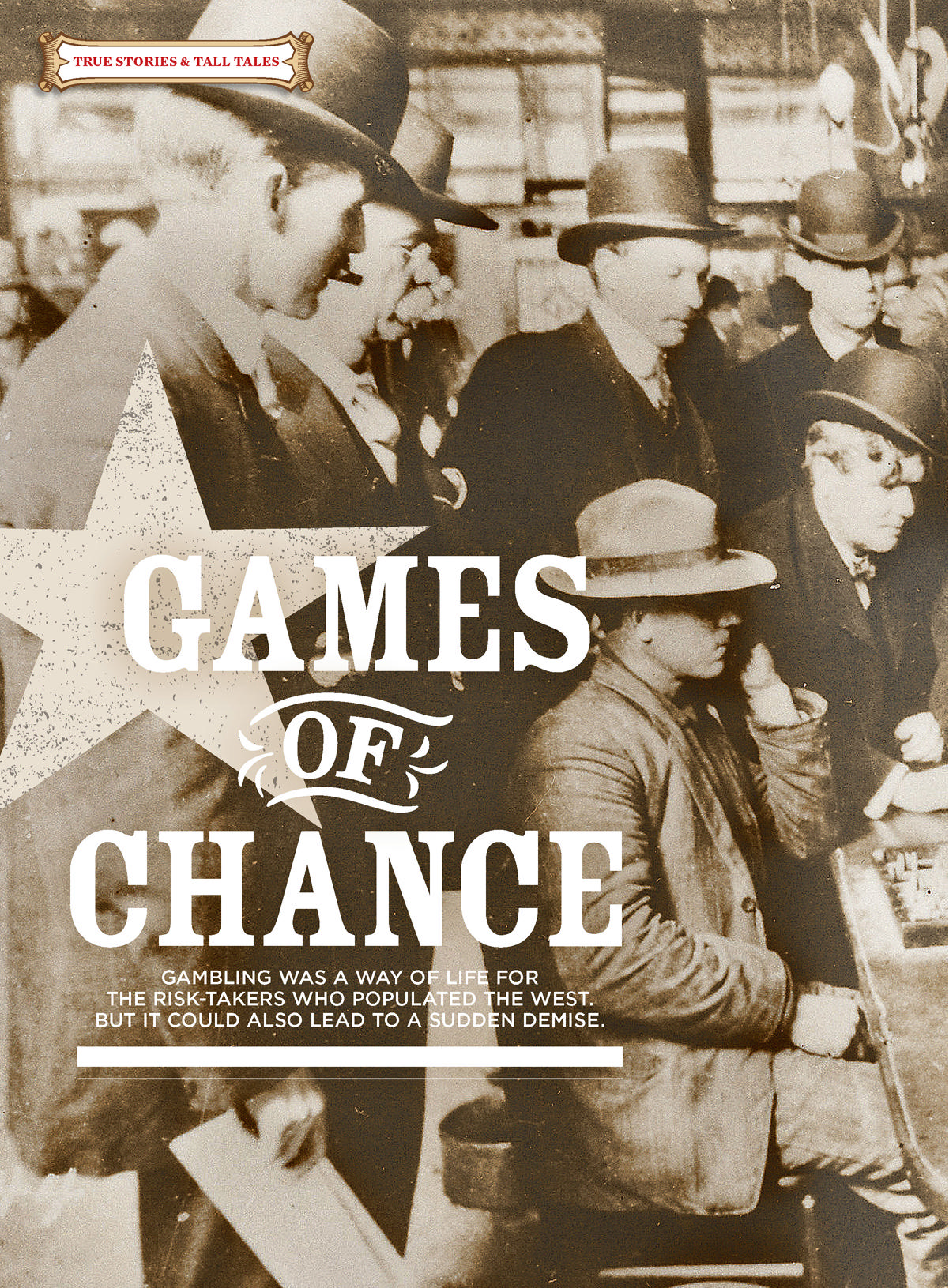




No. 176—Council between General Crook and Geronimo.

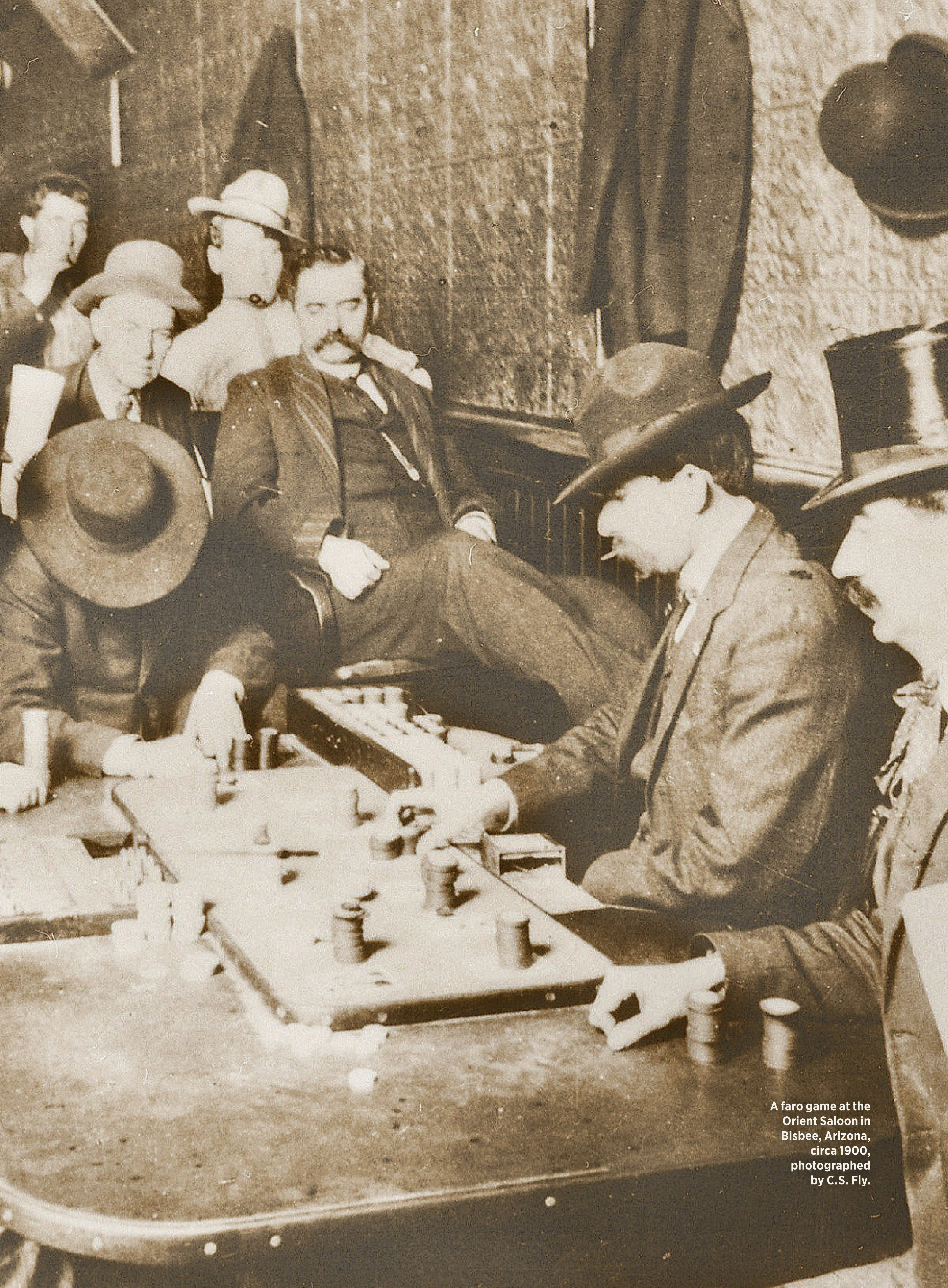


Fly's photos of Geronimo and his Apache band appeared in *Harper's Weekly* magazine in April 1886. The layout included six images, which featured various scenes of Geronimo's aborted surrender negotiations the previous month. Fly carefully documented Geronimo's followers, including four of his relatives holding rifles, and photographed the Apache leader with members of Gen. Crook's staff.
ABOVE Fly's wife and photography partner, Mollie.



GAMES OF CHANCE

GAMBLING WAS A WAY OF LIFE FOR THE RISK-TAKERS WHO POPULATED THE WEST. BUT IT COULD ALSO LEAD TO A SUDDEN DEMISE.



A faro game at the Orient Saloon in Bisbee, Arizona, circa 1900, photographed by C.S. Fly.

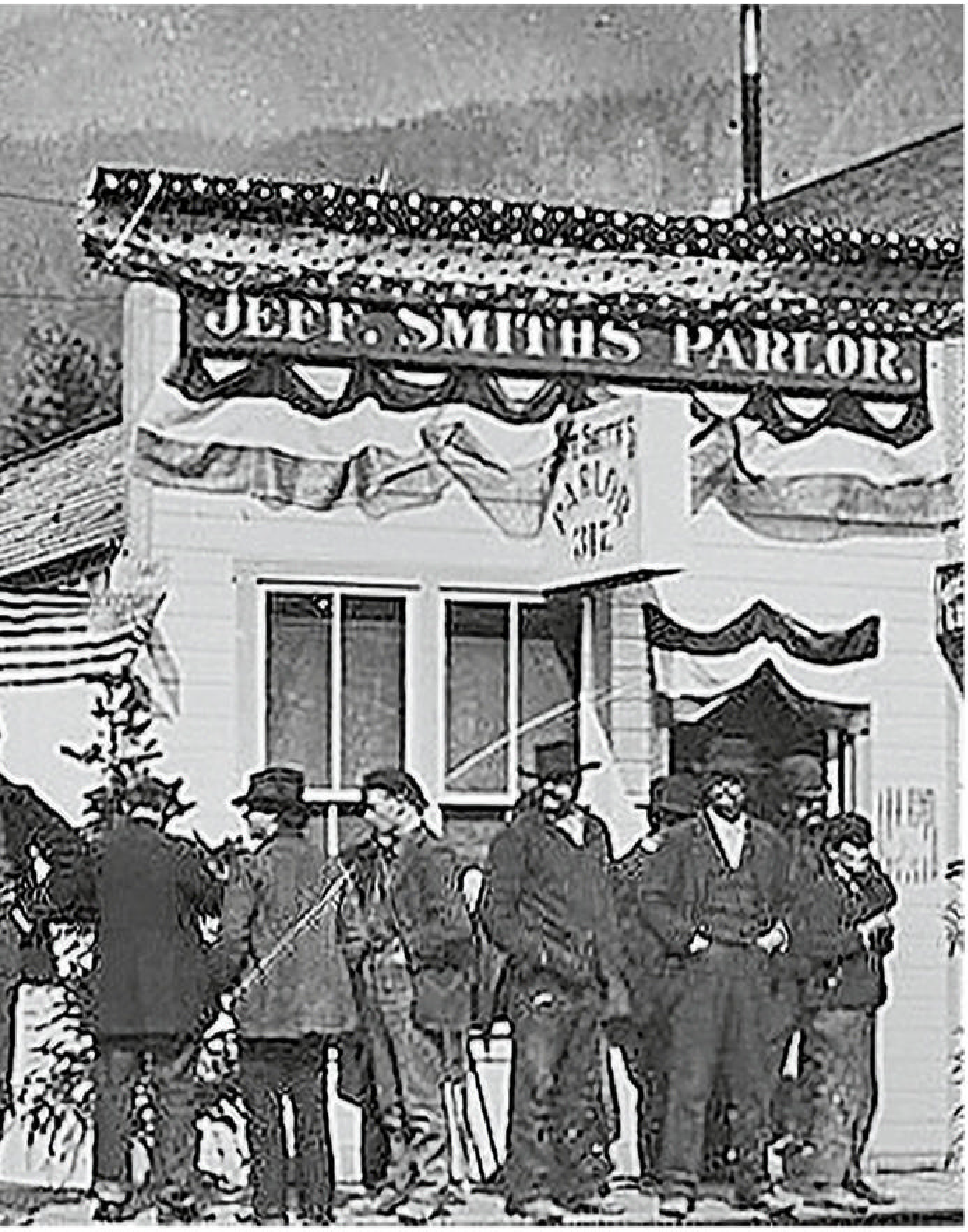
RIGHT Con man, gangster and gambler Soapy Smith in Skagway, Alaska, before his death there in 1898.

BELOW In Skagway, Smith led his gang from Jeff Smith's Parlor, seen here in 1898.

IN A FRONTIER LANDSCAPE FILLED with horse thieves, bank robbers and assorted swindlers, Jefferson Randolph "Soapy" Smith stood out for his criminal enterprise. Smith came from a Georgia family that lost its wealth in the Civil War and then headed to Texas to start over. After leaving home as a teenager, he earned notoriety, and a nickname, by running a scheme in which he sold bars of soap from a suitcase on street corners. To entice customers, he wrapped prize money inside the paper packaging of some of the soap bars, but he made sure that the soap with money went only to shills he'd planted in the crowd. By the 1880s, Smith was in Denver, where he went on to bigger things. Aided by a gang of thieves and abetted by corrupt politicians, he moved in on various rackets, including gambling. In 1888 he opened the Tivoli Club, a gambling hall over the entrance of which, according to legend, hung a sign reading Caveat Emptor (Latin for "let the buyer beware"). It was good advice that went unheeded by the men who came in to play faro, by far the most popular game of chance in the West.

Faro originated in France in the late 17th century as a card game called pharaon. Rechristened as pharo or faro, it spread to America and caught on, in part because of its simple rules and in part because it offered players better odds than other games. Essentially, players (called "punters") wagered on whether the faro dealer ("banker") would turn up a card that matched the denomination of previously exposed cards. Because there was no significant edge for the banker, or house, faro dealers were notorious for cheating with stacked decks, sleight of hand and other tricks—all of which Soapy Smith excelled at.

Smith raked in money from the Tivoli Club, but political pressure eventually forced him to move on to other Western boomtowns. He kept doing what he did best, though. In 1898, he was killed in a shoot-out in Skagway, Alaska, after local vigilantes took exception to his fleecing of a Klondike gold miner in an illegal three-card monte game.



Gambling Goes West

Besides faro, men looking for recreation in the West also liked to play dice games like chuck-a-luck and hazard (a precursor of craps), and, of course, there was poker, which was first popularized by French settlers in New Orleans as a card game came called poque. Before the Civil War, riverboat gambling thrived up and down the Mississippi, and after the war, as America pushed westward, so did gambling. Primitive settlements near army forts, railheads and mining strikes invariably offered their own gambling establishments, along with saloons and brothels catering to the almost entirely male population of the frontier.

LEFT Eleanor Dumont, aka Madame Mustache, dealt cards at establishments across the West.

CENTER Ben Thompson was a gunman, gambler and sometimes lawman with a hot temper.

RIGHT Leadville, Colorado, was a gambling mecca, but a bad place for Doc Holliday.

A saloon in an early mining camp might be a tent with a bar made from a plank of lumber, a brothel just a cot in a wagon, and a gambling den merely a table and a few chairs with a pack of well-worn cards, as Western historian R. K. DeArment has noted. As towns grew, tents were replaced by larger and better-appointed facilities, some offering dance hall girls. By the 1870s, as cattlemen began driving herds from Texas north to railheads in Kansas, cow towns like Abilene, Wichita and Dodge City all became gambling meccas.

As the towns grew into cities, customers with a taste for whiskey and other vices could find a degree of elegance in saloons with ornate bars, and elaborately furnished brothels managed by madams who earned legendary status in their own right.

Among the most famous were Pearl de Vere, a former “soiled dove” in Denver who went on to set up a business of her own in the thriving gold mining camp of Cripple Creek, Colorado.

Another female legend of the West, Eleanor Dumont, made her mark as a gambler during the California gold rush. Better known by her nickname, Madame Mustache, she worked as a dealer at the Bella Union in San Francisco—one of the city’s premier gambling houses—and later opened her own gambling parlor in Nevada City, California. She called it Vingt-et-un, which was also the name of her preferred card game, known today as 21 or blackjack. Over the years she brought her dealing prowess to mining camps across the West, from Tombstone, Arizona, to Deadwood, South Dakota, later also diversifying her résumé by managing brothels. Her last stop was the mining town of Bodie, California, where she died in 1879, either from a morphine overdose or suicide.

Aces and Eights

The popularity of gambling in the Wild West, note many historians, can be attributed to the risk-taking nature of the

JOHN LENINGER
BOOKS & STATIONERY
BOOK STORE
O.L. MATTHEWS NOTARY PUBLIC
JUSTICE PEACE
A. GOLDSOLL'S LOAN OFFICE
BAKERY
SHOES.
SHOE STORE

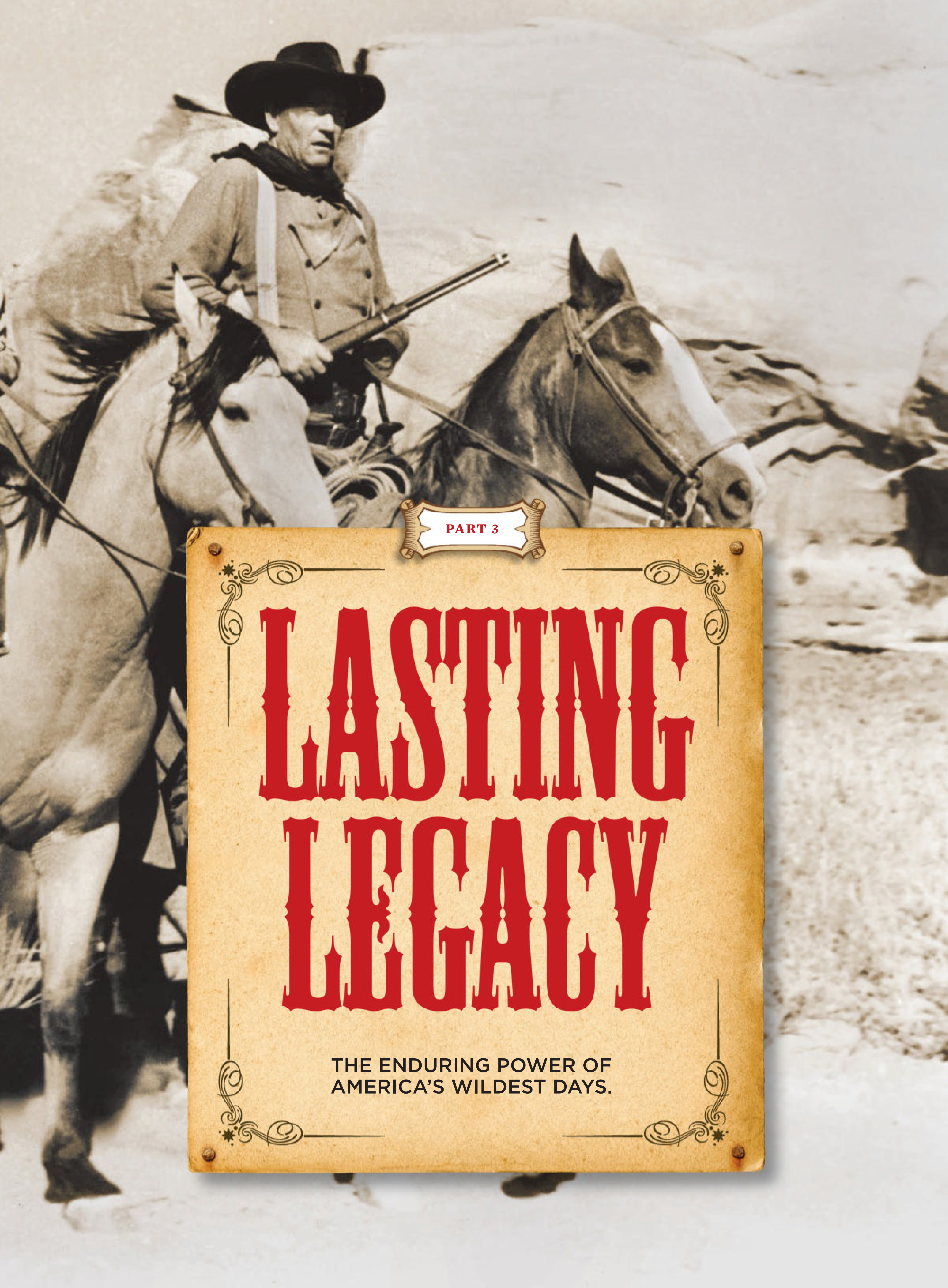
people who left the comforts of the East for uncertain prospects of the frontier. Some made their livings at gambling, including, at various times, "Wild Bill" Hickok, Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson and Doc Holliday. Given the likelihood of violence in gambling halls—a byproduct of liquor and losses—men with reputations as gunfighters could always find work as boomtown lawmen and dealers in gambling establishments.

No matter how skilled they were, though, sometimes even the best gamblers ran into spells when the cards were against them, including Holliday. After leaving Arizona (ahead of a murder charge connected to events at Tombstone's O.K. Corral), he'd gone to Colorado in 1882 and then settled in the silver camp of Leadville, where gambling houses were plentiful. (Many of the West's better-known gamblers turned up in the boomtown at one time or another, among them gunman and sometimes lawman Ben Thompson, who is said to have shot out the lights of one gambling house after losing $3,000 playing faro one night.) If Leadville was a gambler's paradise, its high altitude and cold was terrible for Doc Holliday's tuberculosis, which worsened just as his luck soured. It was a bad combination.

Nearly penniless, he borrowed $5 from a gambler, bartender and former lawman named Billy Allen, who later repeatedly demanded repayment. Holliday ended up shooting Allen (who miraculously survived), and later stood trial for what some saw as attempted murder. Holliday claimed self-defense and was acquitted in 1885.

Meanwhile, the most famous losing poker hand in the history of the West was the two pairs—aces and eights, all black—reportedly held by Hickok when he was murdered in Deadwood, South Dakota, on Aug. 2, 1876. Whether those were actually the cards he was holding is unclear, according to Hickok biographer Joseph Rosa, but the "dead man's hand" would become a staple of Western lore.

John Wayne (far right) set the standard as the tough cowboy in films like 1956's *The Searchers*.



PART 3

LASTING LEGACY

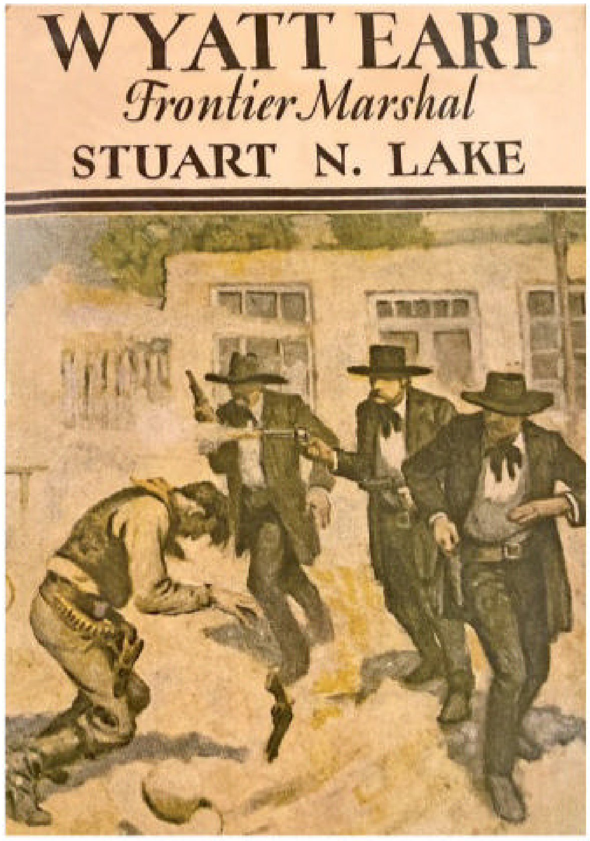
THE ENDURING POWER OF
AMERICA'S WILDEST DAYS.

BEST WESTERNS

HOW THE MOVIES (AND TELEVISION) RETOLD THE STORY OF THE FRONTIER'S WILDEST DAYS.

THE MOST FAMOUS SHOOT-OUT in the history of the Wild West didn't become famous until 50 years after it happened. In the late 1920s, Stuart N. Lake, a writer who specialized in spinning tales about the Old West, sought out an aging Wyatt Earp at his home in Los Angeles, hoping to write a magazine article about the bygone days of the rowdy frontier. At the time, Earp was a relatively unknown figure who filled his days by consulting on silent cowboy movies, and he happened to be looking for someone to write a biography that would burnish his public image. The result of the collaboration between the two was Lake's book *Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal*, which was published in 1931, two years after Earp's death at age 80. A bestseller, it turned Earp into a Western hero and established the Gunfight at the O.K Corral as a centerpiece of Western history—although much of the biography, according to historians, is fictional.

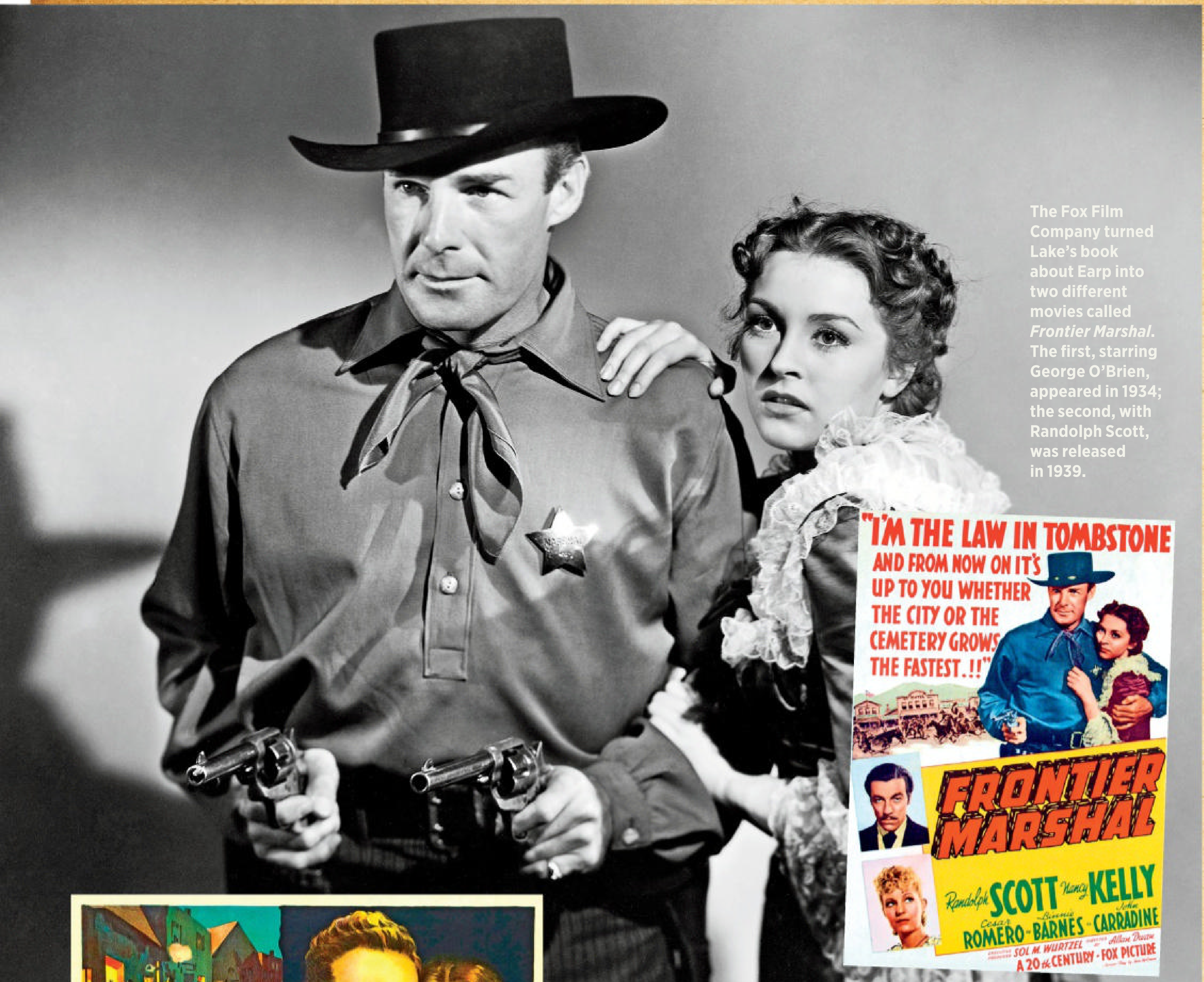
Stuart N. Lake wrote a 1931 biography of Wyatt Earp after interviewing the aging lawman.



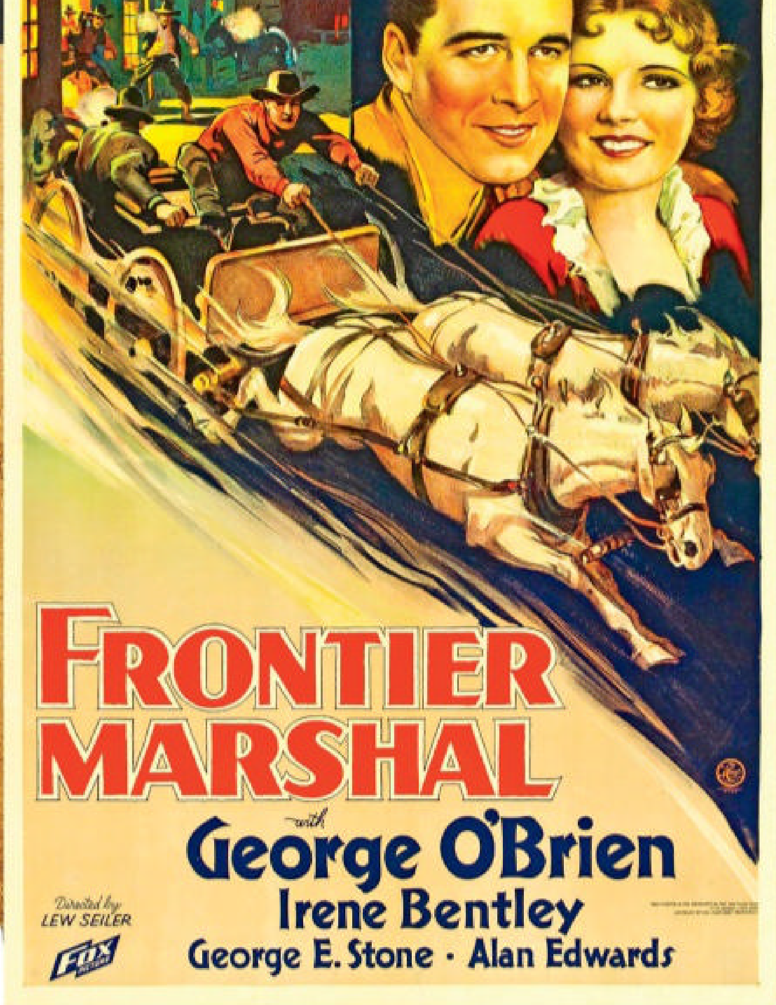
Lake sold the book's movie rights to the Fox Film Company, which in 1934 released a shoot-'em-up Western titled *Frontier Marshal*, starring actor George O'Brien. In 1939 a second version of the Wyatt Earp story (with the same name) was released, starring Randolph Scott. But it was director John Ford's 1946 version of Lake's book, retitled *My Darling Clementine*, that turned the fractious West into American mythology. In Ford's film, the town of Tombstone, Arizona, became the setting for a morality play that ends in a climactic showdown between order and anarchy.

By then, Ford had been recasting American history into myth for decades. His 1924 silent film *The Iron Horse*, about the building of the First Transcontinental Railroad, was an early epic of Western storytelling. His landmark 1939 movie *Stagecoach* was an action-packed tale that turned stock characters into Western archetypes, while making John Wayne a major Hollywood star. Ford would go on to make other Western classics through the 1960s, including *Fort Apache* (1948), *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1949), *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962) and *Cheyenne Autumn* (1964).

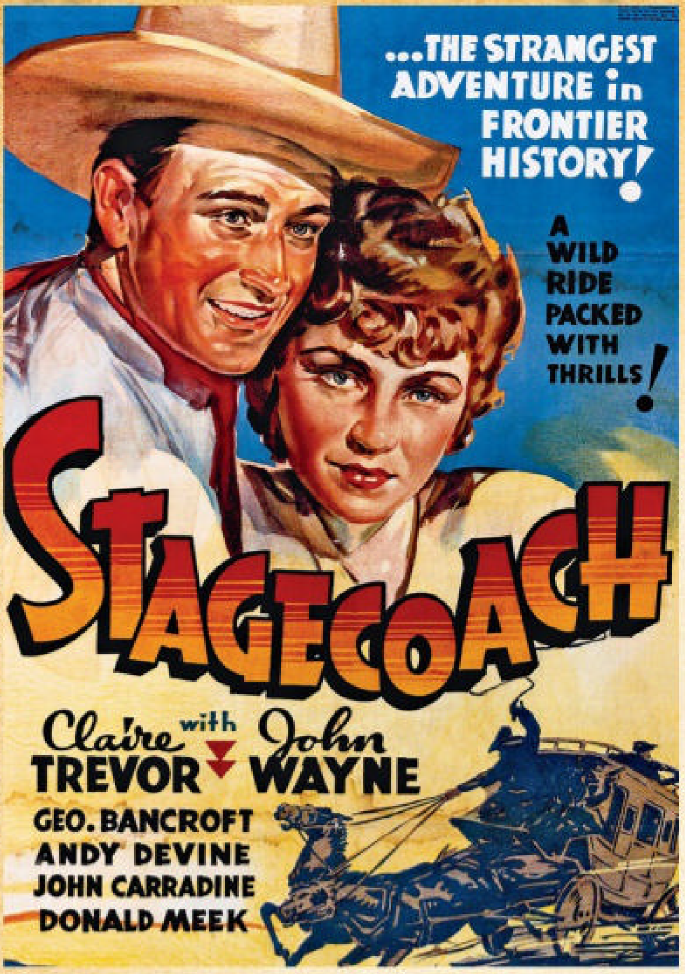
To a large extent, the history of the West is also the history of Hollywood: Many film historians point to the 1903 silent film *The Great Train Robbery* as the first narrative film. Just 10 minutes long, it had many of the elements

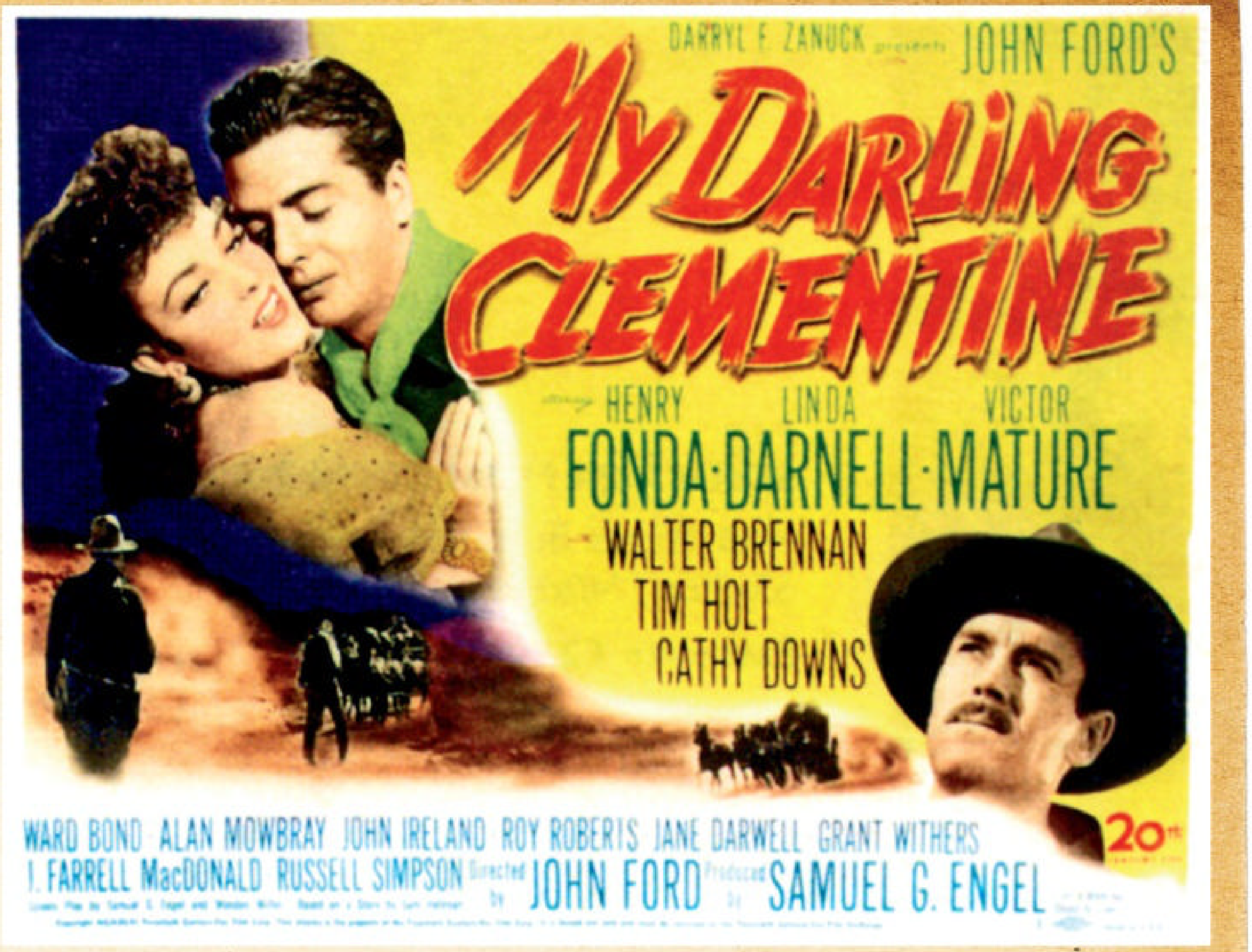

"I'M THE LAW IN TOMBSTONE AND FROM NOW ON IT'S UP TO YOU WHETHER THE CITY OR THE CEMETERY GROWS THE FASTEST.!!"
FRONTIER MARSHAL
Randolph SCOTT Nancy KELLY
Cesar ROMERO Binnie BARNES John CARRADINE
SOL M. WURTZEL Allan Dwan
A 20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE

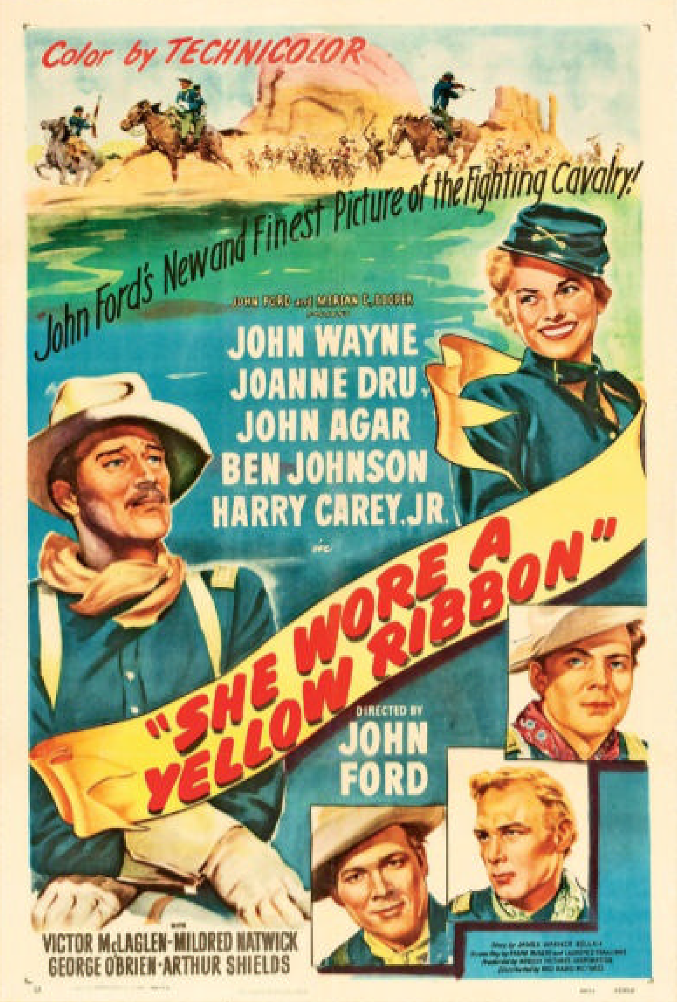
The Fox Film Company turned Lake's book about Earp into two different movies called *Frontier Marshal*. The first, starring George O'Brien, appeared in 1934; the second, with Randolph Scott, was released in 1939.

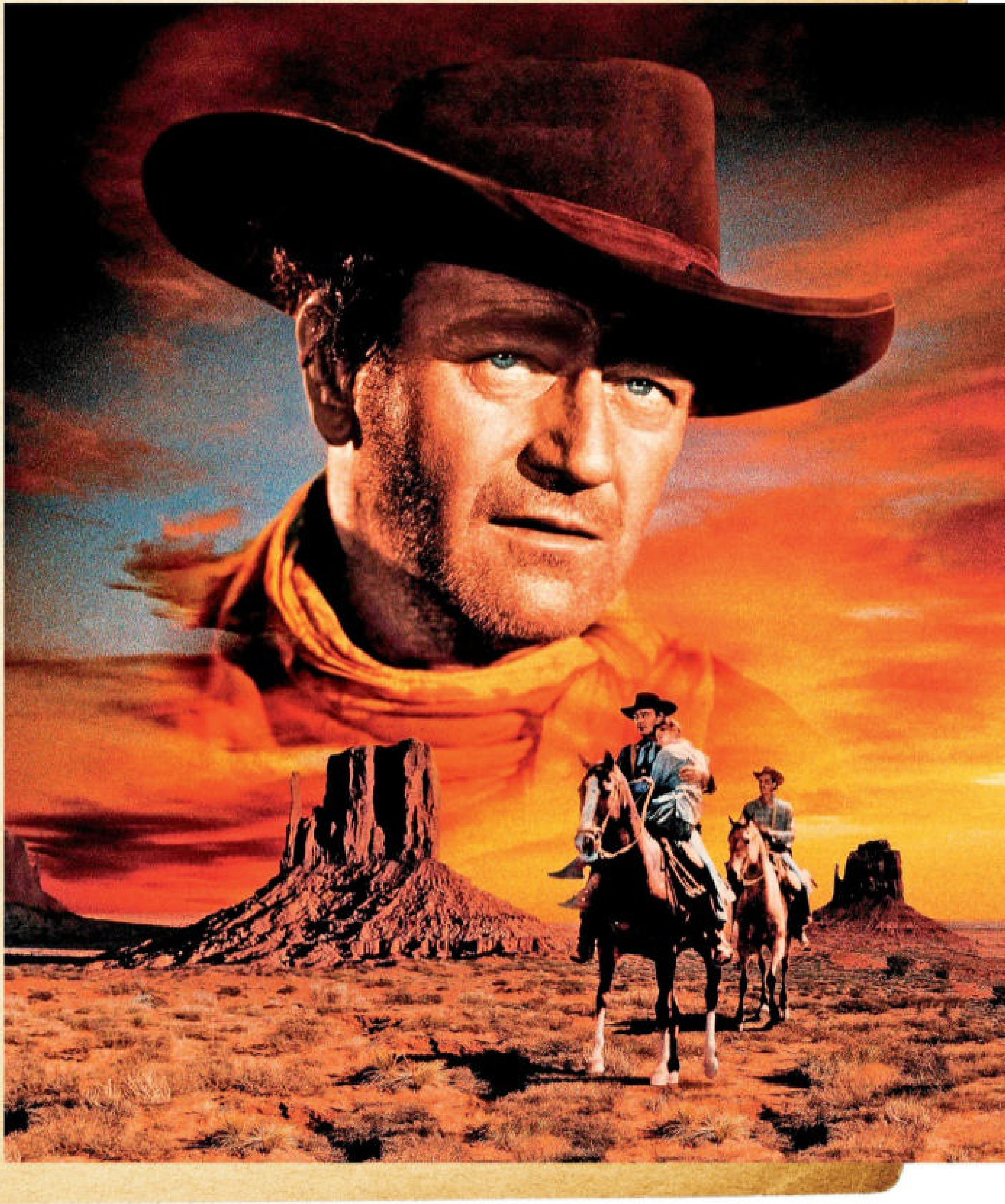

FRONTIER MARSHAL
with George O'Brien
Irene Bentley
George E. Stone · Alan Edwards
Directed by LEW SEILER
FOX

FRONTIER MARSHAL
with GEORGE O'BRIEN
IRENE BENTLEY
GEORGE E. STONE
ALAN EDWARDS
FOX


...THE STRANGEST ADVENTURE in FRONTIER HISTORY!
A WILD RIDE PACKED WITH THRILLS!
STAGECOACH
Claire TREVOR with John WAYNE
GEO. BANCROFT
ANDY DEVINE
JOHN CARRADINE
DONALD MEEK


DARRYL F. ZANUCK presents JOHN FORD'S
My Darling Clementine
HENRY FONDA · LINDA DARNELL · VICTOR MATURE
WALTER BRENNAN
TIM HOLT
CATHY DOWNS
WARD BOND ALAN MOWBRAY JOHN IRELAND ROY ROBERTS JANE DARWELL GRANT WITHERS
J. FARRELL MacDONALD RUSSELL SIMPSON
Directed by JOHN FORD
Produced by SAMUEL G. ENGEL
20th


Color by TECHNICOLOR
John Ford's New and Finest Picture of the Fighting Cavalry!
JOHN WAYNE
JOANNE DRU,
JOHN AGAR
BEN JOHNSON
HARRY CAREY, JR.
in
"SHE WORE A YELLOW RIBBON"
DIRECTED BY JOHN FORD
VICTOR McLAGLEN · MILDRED NATWICK
GEORGE O'BRIEN · ARTHUR SHIELDS



JOHN FORD MOVIES

Director John Ford elevated the Western with movies like *Stagecoach* (1939), which made John Wayne a major star, and *My Darling Clementine* (1946), his version of the Wyatt Earp story. Wayne also starred in Ford's *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1949) and his epic *The Searchers* (1956).

of Westerns to come—outlaws, an Eastern tenderfoot, and a shoot-out that restores law to the frontier. "The Western has always been the American epic," Robert Thompson, founding director of Syracuse University's Bleier Center for Television & Popular Culture, has noted. "It's exciting and violent and huge. We don't have a single text like *The Iliad* or *The Odyssey*, but the Western is our story."

Strong Silent Types

Why did the Western become a staple of the movies? Perhaps, as film critic and curator Dave Kehr of New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) has pointed out, it starts with the Western landscape—"the blank empty desert, waiting to be written on, a blank stage in many ways." Onto that stage many different kinds of stories could be projected.

In 1902, novelist Owen Wister published *The Virginian*, considered by many to be the first serious work of fiction about the West. It told the story of a stalwart Wyoming cowboy, his romance with a "schoolmarm" named Molly and his conflict with a gambler named Trampas. The book was adapted as a movie in 1914 by director Cecil B. DeMille and retold on the screen many times in years to come. (It was also turned into a television series in the 1960s.) William S. Hart became an early cowboy star of the silent-screen era playing the strong, silent type of frontier hero often depicted in dime novels popularized in the 19th century. Other cowboy stars, from Tom Mix to Hoot Gibson and William Boyd (aka Hopalong Cassidy), followed in the same romanticized tradition.

Over the following decades Hollywood turned out Westerns by the hundreds, most of them low-budget productions featuring familiar characters and plot devices. There were also more ambitious Westerns, including 1923's big-budget silent *The Covered Wagon*. Ford's *The Iron Horse* was shot almost entirely on location in the Nevada desert, while director Raoul Walsh's *The Big Trail* (1930) gave John Wayne his first leading role. Hollywood even figured out how to mix musical entertainment with Western excitement by introducing singing cowboys like Gene Autry, Tex Ritter and Roy Rogers.

The heyday of the classic Western was the 1940s and 1950s. Films like William

James Stewart was a crack shot obsessed with revenge in *Winchester '73*.

Director George Stevens' *Shane* appeared in 1953, the heyday of classic Westerns.

Wellman's *The Ox-Bow Incident* (1943), King Vidor's *Duel in the Sun* (1946) and Howard Hawks' *Red River* (1948) brought dramatic realism to the genre. Director Anthony Mann made a number of emotionally stark Westerns in the 1950s with James Stewart, including *Winchester '73* (1950) and *The Far Country* (1954). Director George Stevens' *Shane* (1953), Ford's *The Searchers* (1956), William Wyler's *The Big Country* (1958) and Hawks' *Rio Bravo* (1959) all explored social and moral themes while delivering the action audiences craved.

Order and Irony

By the 1960s and 1970s, portrayals of the cowboy had grown morally murkier as the Vietnam War, the civil rights movement and political scandals undermined Americans' confidence in its institutions. The heroes of old gave way to antiheroes more concerned with furthering their own interests than protecting a corrupt society from evildoers. Movies like George Roy Hill's *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid* (1969), Robert Altman's *McCabe & Mrs. Miller* (1971) and the Clint Eastwood spaghetti Westerns by director Sergio Leone—including *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* (1966)—echoed the moral tenor of the times.

The Western hero has continued to be recast, sometimes in more classic terms, as in the 1989 TV miniseries *Lonesome Dove*, based on Larry McMurtry's novel. The 2004 HBO series *Deadwood* offered a revisionist view of American greed and fallible Western heroes. And in 2012, director Quentin Tarantino put his stamp on the genre with *Django Unchained*, which turned Western mythology and America's history of slavery and racism inside out. Then in 2016, HBO's *Westworld,* which was set in a technologically advanced Wild-West-themed amusement park populated by android "hosts," took on the misogyny of so many Westerns. "It's among TV's most fiercely feminist visions, a series that subverts traditionally masculine genres like the cowboy serial and the sci-fi mind bender by giving women, well, a seat at the table," Time.com's Daniel D'Addario wrote.

From their earliest days, movie Westerns have looked at the conflicting values of society and individual freedom: The arrival of civilization on the frontier necessarily spelled an end to the unfettered lives of the indomitable men living in the wilderness. "The classical Western," as MoMA's Dave Kehr has noted, "is fundamentally concerned with the coming of law that defines a new society. The central irony of the Western is that the law has to be established through exactly the kind of personal force, strength and violence that the law is meant to suppress."

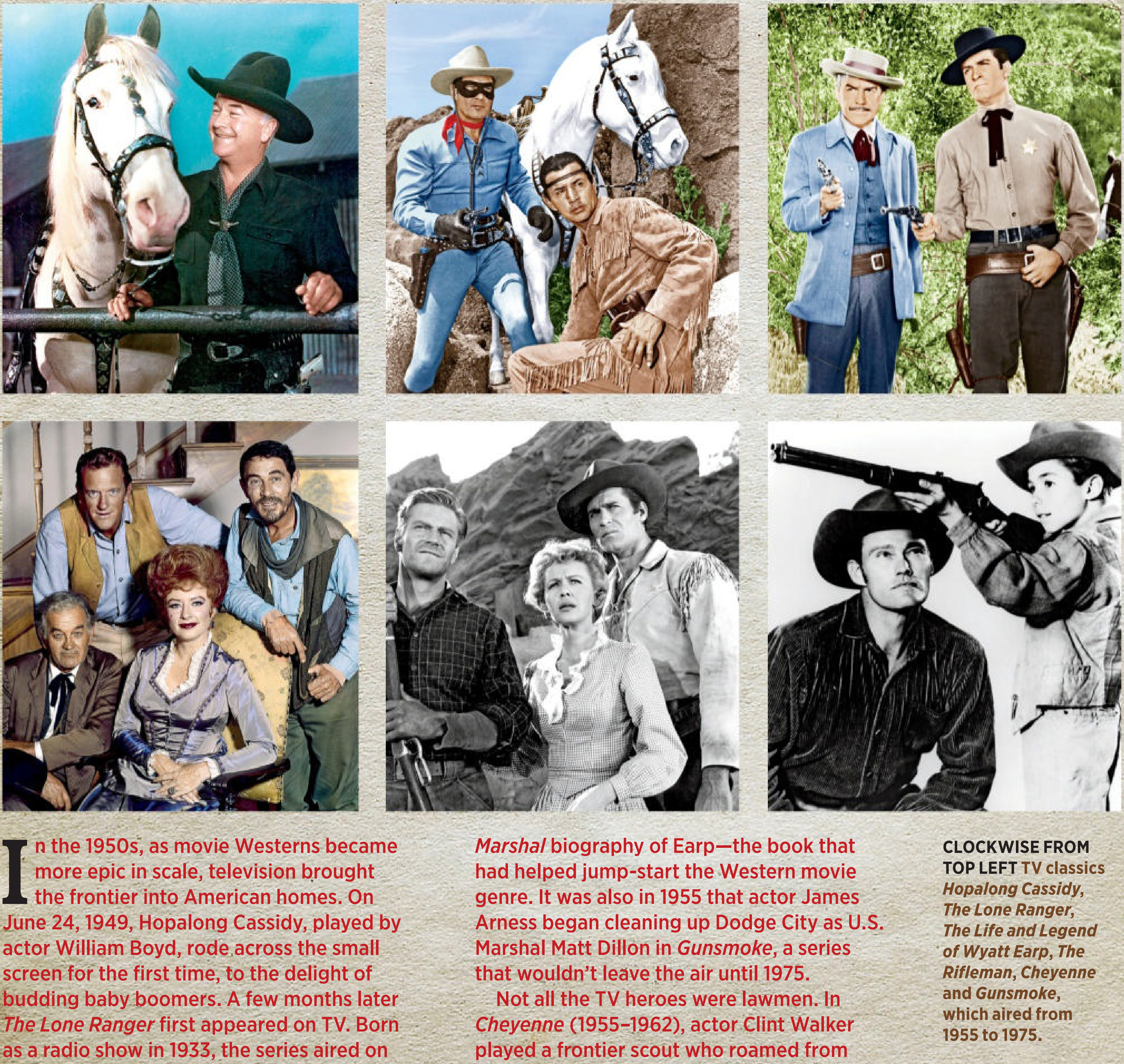
For decades it's been debated whether contemporary audiences find Westerns relevant. Although they will continue to be transformed, they're likely to remain an essential way for Americans to examine the past and how it has shaped the present.

BELOW Clint Eastwood and director Sergio Leone teamed up on three spaghetti Westerns.

RIGHT Paul Newman and Robert Redford in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.*

TELEVISION LEGENDS

They stood for law and order, which often came at the point of a gun.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT TV classics *Hopalong Cassidy*, *The Lone Ranger*, *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp*, *The Rifleman*, *Cheyenne* and *Gunsmoke*, which aired from 1955 to 1975.

In the 1950s, as movie Westerns became more epic in scale, television brought the frontier into American homes. On June 24, 1949, Hopalong Cassidy, played by actor William Boyd, rode across the small screen for the first time, to the delight of budding baby boomers. A few months later *The Lone Ranger* first appeared on TV. Born as a radio show in 1933, the series aired on TV through 1957, with actor Clayton Moore (and for a short time John Hart) playing the masked man. Soon, TV Western series dominated the airwaves of America. From 1949 to the late 1960s, over 100 Western series aired on television networks.

Among them was *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp*, which debuted in 1955. The series, starring actor Hugh O'Brian, was an adaptation of Stuart N. Lake's *Frontier Marshal* biography of Earp—the book that had helped jump-start the Western movie genre. It was also in 1955 that actor James Arness began cleaning up Dodge City as U.S. Marshal Matt Dillon in *Gunsmoke*, a series that wouldn't leave the air until 1975.

Not all the TV heroes were lawmen. In *Cheyenne* (1955–1962), actor Clint Walker played a frontier scout who roamed from town to town doing good. In *The Rifleman* (1958–1963), Chuck Connors was a single father who used a customized Winchester Model 1892 .44-40 carbine to protect his son and his New Mexico town. The TV Westerns managed to offer audiences plentiful violence while underscoring the values of decency and justice, often incorporating plots that dealt with social issues, including racism.

THE REMAINS OF THE OLD DAYS

GHOST TOWNS OF THE WILD WEST TELL A RICH, HAUNTING STORY OF LIFE ON THE FRONTIER—A LIFE YOU CAN REVISIT NOW.

Visitors to Bodie, California, are warned not to take anything from the ghost town or they will be cursed with bad luck. Park Rangers report having several items returned to them by people who claimed they suffered misfortune after pocketing artifacts.

FEW THINGS EXPRESS THE BOOM-and-bust ethos of the Wild West more viscerally than the thousands of communities that sprang up suddenly on the frontier and then died off to become ghost towns. Many appeared after the discovery of gold or silver nearby, then were abandoned when the mines played out. Others were created by risk-takers looking to put down roots far from the centers of commerce in the East—or, in the case of the Mormons of Utah, to create a community based on religious preference.

"In many parts of the world, people may wander around ancient ruins, but they rarely encounter a true ghost town," wrote British historian Peter Ling, PhD, a professor of American studies at the University of Nottingham, in a research project for the mapping service Geotab. "In contrast, Americans know them as vivid reminders of the country's compressed, dynamic and turbulent past."

For the modern explorer, ghost towns offer a time capsule of frontier reality at its most expansive—and sometimes even an actual ghost or two. Here we spotlight six of the best-preserved remnants of a lost time.

ABOVE Sheriff Henry Plummer, whose ghost is said to haunt Bannack, Montana (top right).

BELOW A building in Bodie, California, kept in a state of "arrested decay."

BOTTOM RIGHT The abandoned Mormon town of Grafton, Utah.

Bodie, California

The California Gold Rush was in its 10th year when four prospectors arrived on a high, windswept plain on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada mountain range and found gold in a stream bed there. One of them was W.S. Bodey, a tin manufacturer who in 1849 had left his wife and children in Poughkeepsie, New York, to sail around South America's Cape Horn to San Francisco in search of riches. It had taken him a decade to strike pay dirt on the spot that would become Bodie, California (his name was later misspelled by a sign maker, and the mistake stuck). But Bodey didn't live to see his town in its flush of success. He froze to death in a blizzard during his first winter there, his body lying undiscovered until the following spring.

Bodey's find was largely forgotten for the next decade and a half, overshadowed by the massive mines of the Comstock Lode to the north. As those petered out, prospectors drifted south, and Bodie was finally ready for its 15 minutes of fame. By 1879 the town's population had ballooned to an estimated 10,000, making it one of the largest cities in the state. At its peak in 1881, Bodie boasted a mile-long main street, two churches, two newspapers, a telegraph station, a railroad, stately mansions for mine-owning families, dozens of hotels, saloons, gambling halls, brothels, opium dens—and a reputation for gunfights that gave rise to a mythical figure, the Bad Man from Bodie, who evoked danger throughout the West.

By the early 1890s, the town was on the decline as mine production slowed; only a few residents hung on into the early decades of the next century. Now Bodie is known as one of the best-preserved ghost towns in the country, with about 110 structures kept in what is called a state of "arrested decay" by rangers at the Bodie State Historic Park. Visitors can peer into shops still stocked with supplies and shacks with tables set as if waiting for long-gone residents to return for dinner.

Bannack, Montana

In the southwest corner of Montana lies the haunted town of Bannack. It's so haunted, in fact, that it has been featured on the Travel Channel's *Ghost Adventures* series. It was founded in 1862 after spectacularly pure gold—99% to 99.5% pure, compared to most gold at 95% pure—was found on nearby Grasshopper Creek. By the next year the population had grown to 3,000, and the town briefly became the Montana Territory's first capital.

While in many ways a classic gold-rush town—including its precipitous decline by 1870—Bannack stood out for its extreme lawlessness. Its gold strikes attracted not only prospectors but Civil War deserters, outlaws and businessmen looking for quick profits. Miners using the roads in and out of town became prey for outlaws called "road agents," and killings were frequent, numbering about a hundred in 1863 alone. When rumors spread that the newly elected sheriff, Henry Plummer, was secretly running the road gangs, using inside information about when gold was being transported to score hauls, a group of town vigilantes hanged Plummer and his two deputies without a trial in early 1864. It wasn't until the territorial governor cracked down in 1867 that some order was established.

Some say the ghost of Sheriff Plummer still resides in Bannack, hovering around Skinner's Saloon, near where his gallows once stood. But it is the building next door, the Hotel Meade, that attracts most fans of the paranormal. Visitors have told of cold spots

BOONE & WRIGHT
FREE CORRALL
GENERAL MERCHANDISE

and the sounds of crying children, and some say they have spied the apparition of a young drowning victim, Dorothy Dunn. In all, over 50 intact structures remain to tell the story of Bannack's violent past.

Grafton, Utah

Located on the southwest border of what is now Zion National Park in Utah, the town of Grafton was homesteaded by five families as a humble Mormon farming settlement in 1859, just a decade after Brigham Young brought his followers to the "promised land" of the Salt Lake Valley 300 miles to the north. What remains of Grafton has been judged by Hollywood to be a quintessential Wild West hamlet: Grafton's most famous movie appearance comes during a musical interlude in the 1969 film *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid*, when stars Paul Newman and Katharine Ross are seen riding a bicycle past an old schoolhouse and the Alonzo Russell home, both of which are still standing today.

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The town's panoramic mountain views caught the eye of filmmakers as far back as 1928, when they came there to shoot *In Old Arizona*, the first "talkie" filmed outdoors. A 1930 sequel, *The Arizona Kid*, was also shot in Grafton, as was 1947's *Ramrod* and 1984's *The Red Fury*. In addition to movie memories, Grafton offers visitors a glimpse of everyday life in the West. The town cemetery contains a few dozen graves from 1860 to 1910, including those of two brothers named Berry and the wife of one of the brothers, all killed by members of the Paiute tribe on April 2, 1866, in the midst of a dispute over grain rights. You can also see the graves of five children from the family of John and Charlotte Ballard, all of whom died between 1865 and 1877, none living for more than nine years. (Diphtheria and scarlet fever were big killers in the mid-1860s.) It wasn't disease but the recurring flooding of the nearby Virgin River that finally drove everyone out of Grafton. What remains are a few well-preserved buildings that attest to the Mormon settlers' determination and grit.

Rhyolite, Nevada

Though it had one of the shortest lives of all the ghost towns—springing up in 1904 and fading away to almost nothing by 1910—Rhyolite, Nevada, was a place of spectacular sophistication during its heyday.

Located about 120 miles northwest of Las Vegas on the eastern border of Death Valley National Park, the town's name referred to the silica-rich volcanic rock that is found in the area. After high-grade gold was discovered there, some 5,000 people arrived

within six months—and Rhyolite became Nevada's third-largest city.

The town boasted 50 saloons, 35 gambling houses, 19 lodging houses, 16 restaurants, barbers, a public bath house, a weekly newspaper, and bordellos with "soiled doves" from as far away as San Francisco. In 1906, steel magnate and investor Charles M. Schwab purchased a mine near Rhyolite, spurring the addition of even more amenities, including electricity, indoor plumbing and concrete sidewalks. There were also railroad lines, telephone and telegraph lines, a stock exchange and banks. Among the latter was the John S. Cook and Co. Bank on Golden Street, which stood three stories high and featured Italian marble stairs and imported stained-glass windows.

Within a couple of years, though, the town began to fade as mines dried up and an economic recession crushed businesses. By 1910, the population had dwindled to 611 residents, and in 1916 the light and power were finally turned off. A few stark remnants of Rhyolite's former glory remain, including the town's train depot, scattered general stores and the so-called Bottle House, constructed by an enterprising miner out of 50,000 beer and liquor bottles.

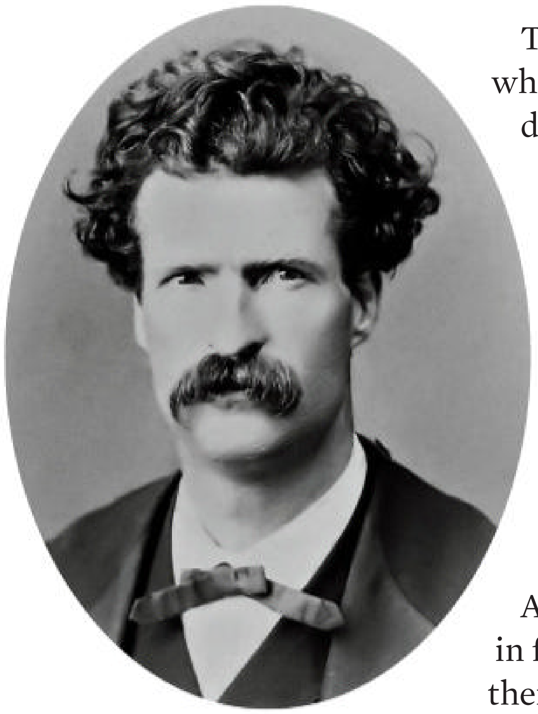
St. Elmo, Colorado

Among Colorado's many ghost towns, St. Elmo is considered the best preserved, and the most haunted. Located about 83 miles southeast of Aspen, St. Elmo was founded in 1878 by miners in search of gold and silver. When they struck gold in 1880, the high-altitude (9,900 feet) town became home to 2,000 people within 10 days. By 1881 it featured five hotels, a town hall, a schoolhouse, a weekly newspaper, two sawmills, a smelting works and a train line. Among the 150 claims, the Mary Murphy Mine was said to have pulled out more than $60 million (in today's dollars) worth of gold.

ABOVE You can look for the ghost of Annabelle Stark in St. Elmo, Colorado.

TOP LEFT A railway ruin in Rhyolite, Nevada.

LEFT A scene from *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid*, filmed in Grafton, Utah.



TOP There are historic structures to explore and plenty to do in South Pass City, Wyoming.

BOTTOM Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain, passed through South Pass City before gold was found there.

The town's decline began as early as 1890, when a fire destroyed much of the business district just as the local mines were starting to play out. Residents began to move on, and the railroad stopped its run there in 1922.

The family of Anton Stark remained in St. Elmo for decades. He had worked as a section boss for one of the mines, while his wife, Anna, ran a general store and the Home Comfort Hotel. Anna was known as a harsh and controlling mother of three, and after she died, her daughter Annabelle was seen wandering the town in filthy clothes, her hair disheveled. Since then, stories of "cold rooms" in the hotel have abounded. So have sightings of Annabelle herself, standing in an upstairs window. Modern-day visitors can explore the Home Comfort Hotel, the St. Elmo schoolhouse, general stores and many original cabins dating to the 1880s and 1890s.

South Pass City, Wyoming

South Pass City, Wyoming, left its mark on history as the town where, in 1869, a bill was introduced that would make Wyoming the first territory in which women could vote and hold public office. The following year, the country's first female judge was elected there, making Esther Morris the first woman to hold political office in the United States.

The town began as a stage-and-telegraph station on the Oregon Trail during the 1850s—a desolate outpost with a handful of rough houses. One early visitor was 25-year-old Samuel Clemens (later Mark Twain), who arrived in 1861 traveling via stagecoach with his brother Orion, newly appointed as Secretary of Nevada Territory. Twain later wrote about the visit in his book *Roughing It*. "South Pass City," he noted, "consisted of four log cabins, one of which was unfinished."

Gold was discovered nearby in 1867, and the town's population swelled to about 3,000 in 1869, making it the second-largest town in Wyoming Territory—one replete with saloons, brothels and gambling halls. But the mines failed to live up to their reputation and many prospectors started to leave. By the mid-1870s about 100 people remained.

Now a state historic site, South Pass City is one of the state's best-preserved ghost towns, with 24 historic structures and more than 30 period room exhibits. Unlike some of the more untouched towns listed here, it also offers interactive adventures: You can tour the nearby Carissa Gold Mine, pan for gold in the stream and play billiards in a restored saloon.

WHERE THE WEST LIVES ON

Looking to recreate the boomtown experience? These restored ghost towns offer tours, scenic railways, gold-panning and more.

VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA

Home to the vast Comstock Lode southeast of Reno, Virginia City was a metropolis of 25,000 at its peak in the late 1800s. Though its mining-boom days are long over, the town is a bustling tourism center. There are a dozen museums to explore, gold-panning, mine tours, rides on the Virginia & Truckee Railroad, haunted-house tours and shows at Piper's Opera House, whose stage once welcomed Buffalo Bill, President Ulysses S. Grant and Mark Twain.

RESTAURANT

CALICO, CALIFORNIA

This silver-mining community 125 miles northeast of Los Angeles once boasted 500 mines; today, the State Historical Landmark–designated town's original buildings offer a somewhat Disney-style trip into the past. Visitors can tour a silver mine, take a ride on the Calico Odessa Railroad, pan for gold, sign up for a Saturday night ghost tour or enjoy pizza by the slice in a restored saloon.

JEROME, ARIZONA

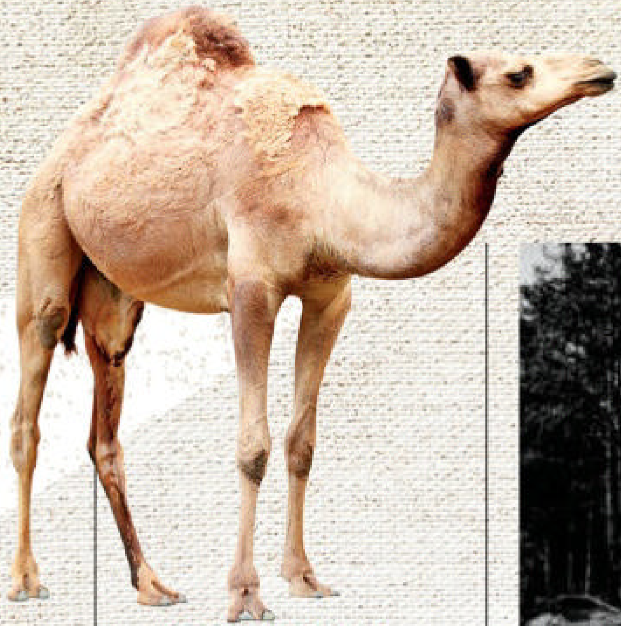
Once called the "wickedest town in the West," this copper-mining town in central Arizona went from 15,000 inhabitants in the early 20th century to about 50 by the 1950s. Jerome has reinvented itself as a tourist destination filled with artists, musicians and gift shop proprietors. You can visit the open-air museum of the Gold King Mine, shop for antiques, browse the galleries of present-day artists and sculptors and enjoy views of the towering red rocks of Sedona, Arizona.

VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA

Virginia City bills itself as a "very much alive ghost town." Designated the territorial capital of Montana in 1865, after gold was discovered nearby, it was once the home of Calamity Jane. Today many of its Victorian buildings are well preserved. Entertainment is widely available, including musical events at the oldest operating opera house west of the Mississippi, and "living history" demonstrations.

10 WILD WEST FACTS

SURPRISING DETAILS ABOUT A REMARKABLE TIME.

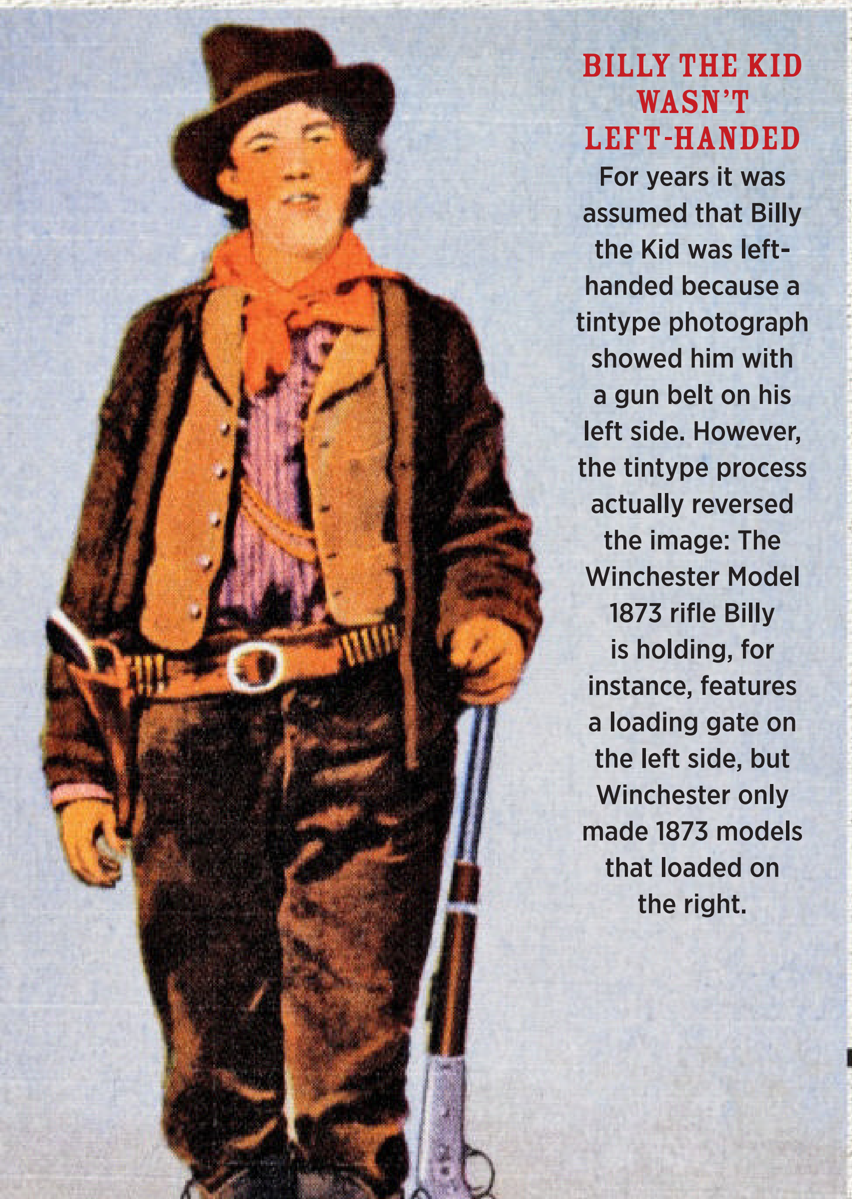


CAMELS ONCE ROAMED THE WEST

Believing the arid West would be ideal for camels, the U.S. Army brought 75 of them to Texas in the late 1850s. During the Civil War, some of the camels were sold off while others were set free and found their way throughout the Southwest. The last reported sighting of a feral camel in Texas was in 1941, according to one source.

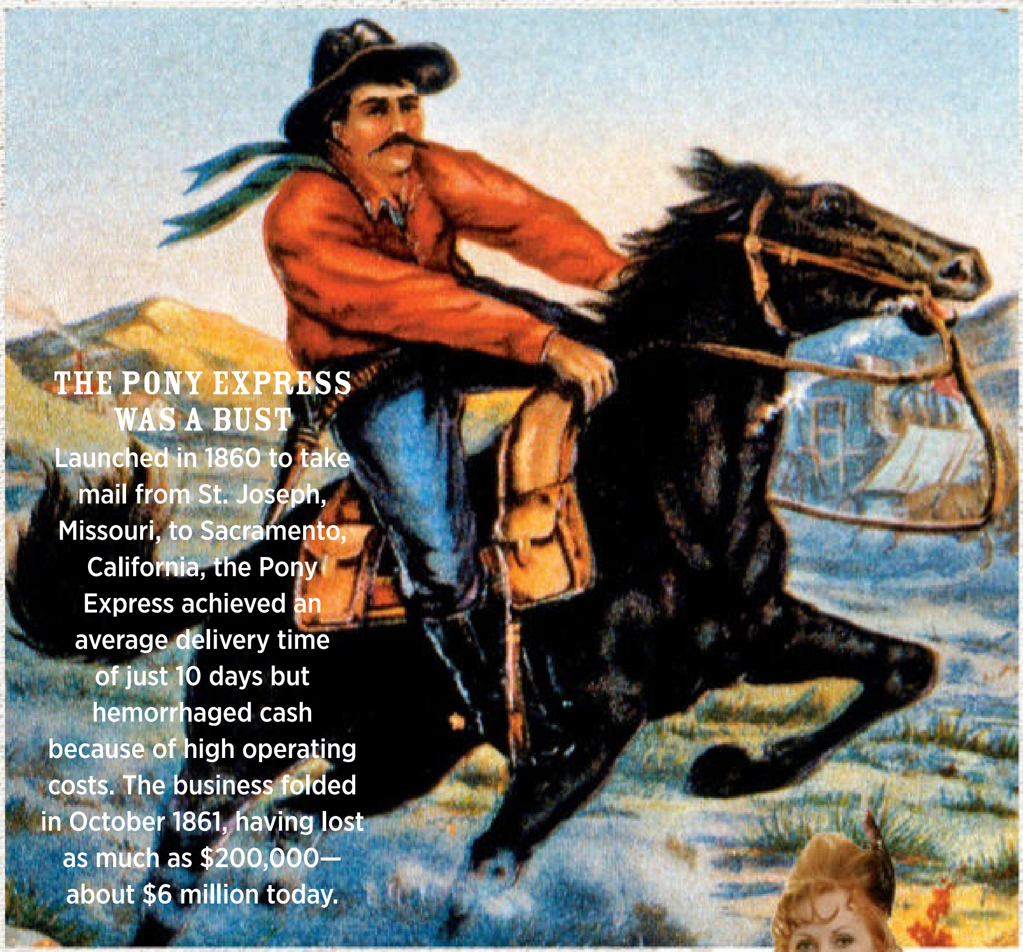
AMERICA'S FIRST GOLD RUSH WAS IN NORTH CAROLINA

The 1849 California gold rush was not America's first. In 1799, a 12-year-old boy named Conrad Reed found what turned out to be gold in North Carolina, setting off a frenzy for riches. In 1828, gold was discovered in Georgia, leading to the nation's second gold rush. California's was No. 3.



BILLY THE KID WASN'T LEFT-HANDED

For years it was assumed that Billy the Kid was left-handed because a tintype photograph showed him with a gun belt on his left side. However, the tintype process actually reversed the image: The Winchester Model 1873 rifle Billy is holding, for instance, features a loading gate on the left side, but Winchester only made 1873 models that loaded on the right.



THE PONY EXPRESS WAS A BUST

Launched in 1860 to take mail from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California, the Pony Express achieved an average delivery time of just 10 days but hemorrhaged cash because of high operating costs. The business folded in October 1861, having lost as much as $200,000—about $6 million today.

DODGE CITY MADE 'RED-LIGHT DISTRICTS' FAMOUS (MAYBE)

It's been suggested that the term "red-light district" originated in Dodge City, Kansas. According to lore, railroad workers took red lanterns with them when they visited brothels so their crews could find them in the event of an emergency. Some historians think the term actually originated in Amsterdam.

BANK ROBBERIES WERE RELATIVELY RARE

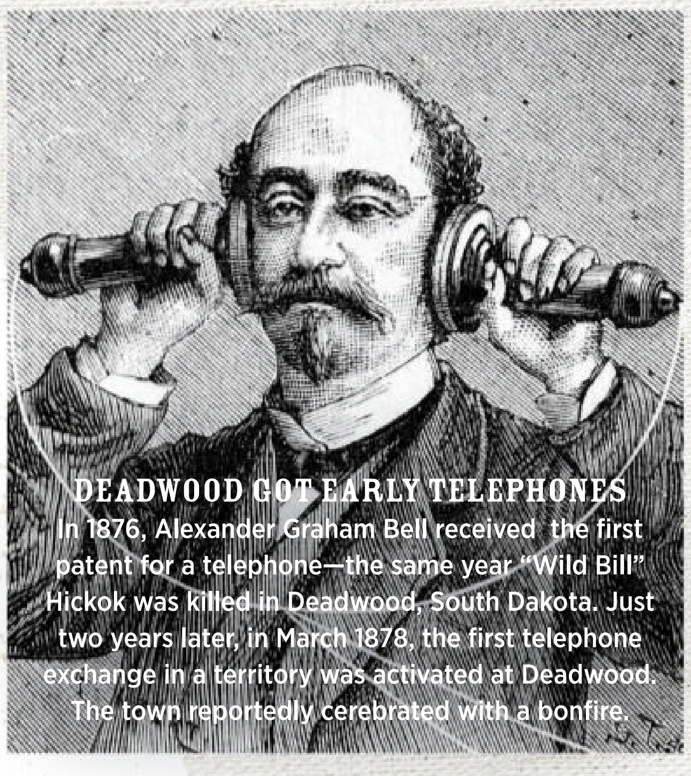
Western movies perpetuated the mistaken idea that bank robberies were common occurrences in the Wild West, note historians. According to one study, there were fewer than 10 bank robberies from 1859 through 1900 across 15 frontier states.

WHISKEY WASN'T ALWAYS WHISKEY

In the decades after the Civil War, distillers were making what we would now recognize as bourbon, but much of the whiskey churned out was basically grain neutral spirits mixed with flavorings and colorings. Cowboys called the stuff "coffin varnish," "tarantula juice" and "strychnine," among other nicknames.

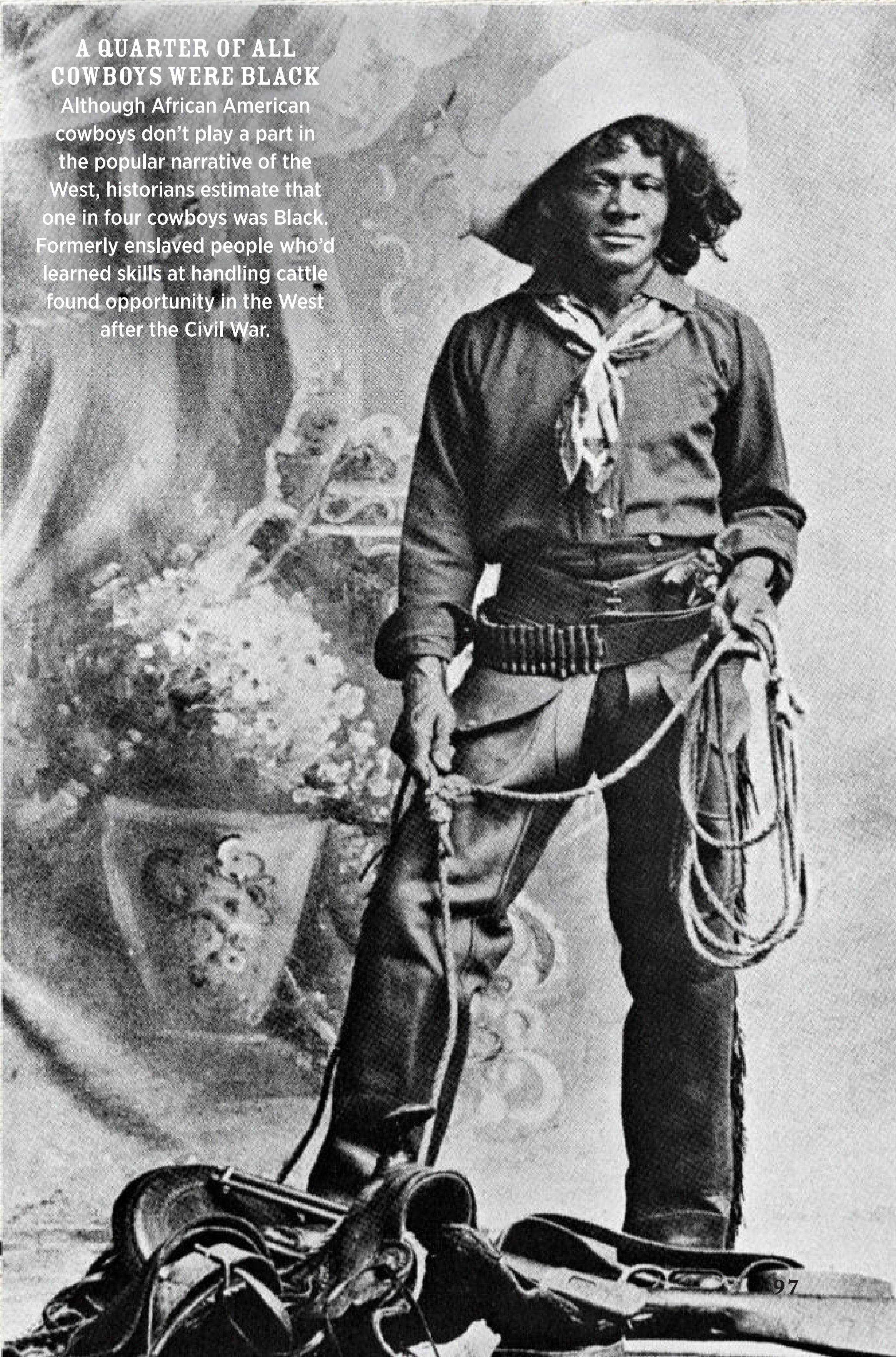
THE DERBY TOPPED THE WEST

Until John B. Stetson made cowboy hats famous (see page 31), the derby was the headgear of choice in the West. First created in London in 1849, the relatively affordable derby was mass-produced in felt and tended to stay put in high winds. Historian Lucius Beebe once called the derby "that hat that won the West."



DEADWOOD GOT EARLY TELEPHONES

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received the first patent for a telephone—the same year "Wild Bill" Hickok was killed in Deadwood, South Dakota. Just two years later, in March 1878, the first telephone exchange in a territory was activated at Deadwood. The town reportedly cerebrated with a bonfire.



A QUARTER OF ALL COWBOYS WERE BLACK

Although African American cowboys don't play a part in the popular narrative of the West, historians estimate that one in four cowboys was Black. Formerly enslaved people who'd learned skills at handling cattle found opportunity in the West after the Civil War.

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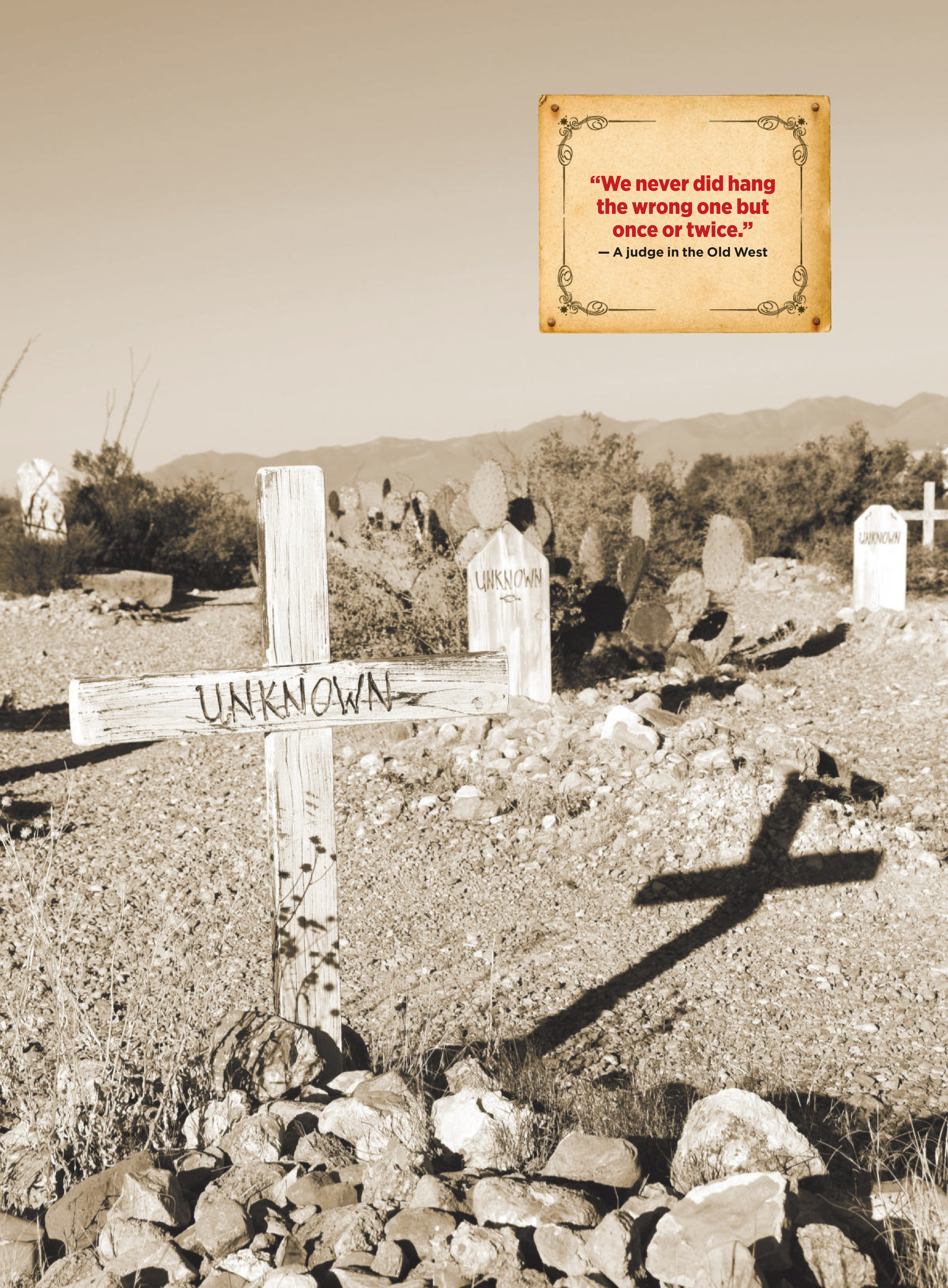
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> “We never did hang the wrong one but once or twice.”
>
> — A judge in the Old West